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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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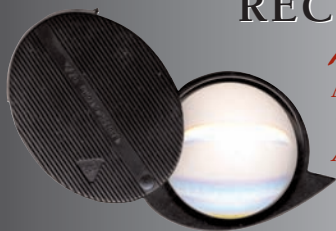
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'A Battlefield Too Even'

After reading Robert Scales' article (December), I am reminded of the words from the movie "The Day After": "Is anybody listening? Is anybody out there?"

I had the privilege to serve with Bob Scales twice in my Army career. Since we met in Korea in 1977, I have known few others with the ability to focus an impressive intellect, combat experience and boundless energy on bettering the lives of individual soldiers and Marines in battle. He cares. And like many of us, he is frustrated with the failures of the system to recognize the needs of front-line soldiers.

I am one of the fathers who purchased body armor for my son, an Army reservist, when he deployed to Iraq in 2003. He is home minus a leg, but he is home. My other son, a Marine, will deploy there soon. If anyone in Congress or the Department of Defense is listening to Scales and is willing to break the gridlock on the XM8, he may complete his tour with a much-improved weapon and, more importantly, a much-improved chance of success.

Sadly, voices like Scales' are not being heard, and my son will deploy with the same weapon I used in Vietnam in 1969. What does this say about our elected leaders and DoD concerning the front-line soldier? As Scales concludes, they are not willing to pay for the privilege of their presence.

—Ed Kelly, Mesquite, Texas

As a Vietnam War Army veteran, I was surprised and disappointed to read that weapons developed in the 1960s and '70s have not really improved for the foot soldier. We need to get this information out to the general public, as well as our local representatives. Any money spent to develop weapons that would save one life is well spent.

—Tom Gallucci,
Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Some things never change, especially in the Defense Department.

My great-great-grandfather served in the western theater from 1862 until the end of the Civil War. In 1863, his regiment and several other Illinois and Indiana units were formed into a brigade under Col. John T. Wilder. The colonel reasoned that his men could move farther and faster, and fight more effectively when they arrived at the battle, if they

rode horseback. So he converted the unit to mounted infantry. He also decided his men should have better weapons, so at his own expense he equipped them with Spencer seven-shot repeating rifles, which they then paid for by deductions from their own meager pay. Besides giving companies the firepower of regiments, these rifles allowed the men to load and fire from prone and concealed positions, thus reducing casualties.

Even the lowliest privates in Wilder's brigade appreciated the benefits of repeating rifles, as their letters home attest. But the Ordnance Department did not wish to supply the entire Union Army with this obviously effective innovation, concerned that soldiers would waste ammunition! This position on repeating rifles prevailed well into the Indian Wars, and a version of it is apparently alive today in the Pentagon.

—Ralph Emmons, Dearborn, Mich.



To a combat infantry Vietnam veteran, the notion of equipping soldiers with exoskeletons and biofeedback devices sounds ludicrous. Modern soldiers are already so loaded down that they waddle like ducks. In serious combat, soldiers need to be agile and mobile, able to swiftly discard heavy and excess gear.

I also question the idea that older, professional soldiers are superior. If you have conscription or the threat thereof, and you have universal social agreement that a war is necessary, then you end up getting Alvin Yorks and Audie Murphys.

— Jim Anderson, Washington

Damaging remarks

I am an enlisted airman in the U.S. Air Force, and I gave up an academic scholarship after two and a half years of college to serve my country in any way possible, including in Iraq. These experiences could not be traded for anything, and it is insulting to have U.S. Rep. Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y., make such an erroneous comment (“If a young fellow has an option of having a decent career or joining the Army to fight in Iraq, you can bet your life that he would not be in Iraq. If there’s anyone who believes these youngsters want to fight, as the Pentagon and some generals have said, you can just forget about it. No bright young individual wants to fight just because of a bonus and just because of some educational benefits,” Fox News Sunday, Nov. 26).

I would be happy to take a job that paid a lot more, but I would not choose it over my enlistment. I feel the service I offer is an integral part of preserving the freedoms of my fellow Americans. Thanks to people like me and other servicemembers, congressmen like Rangel are

able to make ridiculous comments. They also are lucky enough to be afforded the opportunity to rescind those comments. I appreciate The American Legion’s support in searching for an apology.

— Jonathan Linn, Layton, Utah

Israel-Hezbollah war

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick writes that Israel’s response to Hezbollah’s attacks was not proportional (Big Issues, December). Pray tell, what is a proportional response to an enemy that has vowed to wipe Israel off the map and does not recognize the right of the state of Israel to exist? Yes, civilians and children were killed, but the blame can be laid at the feet of Hezbollah, which positioned rockets and terrorists among the population.

Was the Allied fire bombing of Dresden during World War II disproportional? Was the leveling of Berlin disproportional? Was dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki disproportional?

Kilpatrick speaks of the United Nations functioning in negotiations. The United Nations is about as effective as mammary glands on a boar hog. If she is representative of who we are electing to Congress, we deserve what we get.

— Lou Treadway, Orlando, Fla.

Thank you for addressing the topic of Israel’s war with Hezbollah. This is the first time I have seen space given to a dissenting viewpoint about the U.S. government’s outrageous support for Israel. Rep. Kilpatrick is a hero in my eyes for being brave enough to point out the truth: Israel deserves condemnation, not praise, for its violence against its neighbors

and treatment of the occupied territories. This issue is of the utmost importance to U.S. soldiers, since our relationship with Israel is possibly the factor most likely to draw us into future foreign wars.

— Loki Freyr, San Francisco

Disabled veterans tax

Regarding concurrent receipt of earned retirement pay and VA disability compensation, here’s some suggested wording that is so simple even congressmen and senators should be able to understand it: “When a servicemember is separated or retired from service under conditions other than dishonorable and the injury or illness is determined to be in line of duty, the servicemember shall receive both earned retirement pay and disability compensation without regard to the number of years served on active duty.” The discriminatory nature of current law must be ended. Please contact your representative and senators regarding this issue.

— Floyd R. Burchett, Battle Ground, Ind.

No time limit

The article on the GI Bill caught my attention (Commander’s Message, December). One of the biggest problems, as I see it, is that often, when people come off active duty, they are not given all the facts on what they are entitled to as veterans. We hear the words “Montgomery GI Bill” over and over again and are told that it is there to use once we have left active duty. However, we are not told that there is a time limit.

Like many others, I came off active duty, went into the reserves and went to work in the private sector. By the time I was in a position to go back



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There are some people who should not take COREG, including those with severe heart failure who are hospitalized in the intensive care unit. Also, people who require certain intravenous medications that help support their circulation (inotropic medications) should not receive COREG. Other people who should not take COREG are those who are prone to asthma or other breathing problems, those with a very slow heartbeat or heart that skips a beat (irregular heartbeat) and those with liver problems. For more information on COREG, visit www.coreg.com.



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Keep a list of all the medicines you take. Show this list to your doctor and pharmacist before you start a new medicine.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE COREG?

It is important for you to take your medicine every day as directed by your doctor. If you stop taking COREG suddenly, you could have chest pain and/or a heart attack. If your doctor decides that you should stop taking COREG, your doctor may slowly lower your dose over a period of time before stopping it completely.

- Take COREG exactly as prescribed. Your doctor will tell you how many tablets to take and how often. In order to minimize possible side effects, your doctor might begin with a low dose and then slowly increase the dose.
- **Do not stop taking COREG and do not change the amount of COREG you take without talking to your doctor.**
- Tell your doctor if you gain weight or have trouble breathing while taking COREG.

- Take COREG with food.
- If you miss a dose of COREG, take your dose as soon as you remember, unless it is time to take your next dose. Take your next dose at the usual time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.
- If you take too much COREG, call your doctor or poison control center right away.

WHAT SHOULD I AVOID WHILE TAKING COREG?

- COREG can cause you to feel dizzy, tired, or faint. Do not drive a car, use machinery, or do anything that needs you to be alert if you have these symptoms.

WHAT ARE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF COREG?

- **Low blood pressure (which may cause dizziness or fainting when you stand up).** If these happen, sit or lie down right away and tell your doctor.
- **Tiredness.** If you feel tired or dizzy you should not drive, use machinery, or do anything that needs you to be alert.
- **Slow heart beat**
- **Changes in your blood sugar. If you have diabetes, tell your doctor if you have any changes in your blood sugar levels.**
- COREG may hide some of the symptoms of low blood sugar, especially a fast heartbeat.
- COREG may mask the symptoms of hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid).
- **Worsening of severe allergic reactions.**

Other side effects of COREG include shortness of breath, weight gain, diarrhea, and fewer tears or dry eyes that become bothersome if you wear contact lenses.

Call your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

HOW SHOULD I STORE COREG?

Store COREG at less than 86°F (30°C). Keep the tablets dry.

Safely, throw away COREG that is out of date or no longer needed.

Keep COREG and all medicines out of the reach of children.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COREG

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions other than those described in patient information leaflets. Do not use COREG for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COREG to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COREG. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about COREG that is written for healthcare professionals. You can also find out more about COREG by visiting the website www.COREG.com or calling 1-888-825-5249. This call is free.

WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS IN COREG?

Active Ingredient: carvedilol

Inactive Ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, hypromellose, lactose, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol, polysorbate 80, povidone, sucrose, and titanium dioxide

Carvedilol tablets come in the following strengths: 3.125 mg, 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg, 25 mg



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September 2006

PIL-CO:L1

to college and complete the degree I had started under the tuition-assistance program, I was told I was no longer eligible to use my benefits. At no point during my years as a reservist did a career counselor ever mention the GI Bill to me. I agree that changes need to be made in the GI Bill as it now stands. It should be available to veterans at any point they are in a position to use it.

– *Misty Chavis-Rosenfeld, Sneedville, Tenn.*

'Kilroy was here'

I find it a shame that people visiting the National World War II Memorial feel that Kilroy's presence there is graffiti. As an Air Force veteran of World War II, I say, "Nonsense!" Kilroy was our little friend who traveled the world over, making us smile when we could have been frowning. He showed up at the most opportune times and places. He was our companion. I'm very pleased he has a place on that great memorial.

– *Cecil W. Tucker, Graniteville, Vt.*

'A Sailor's Diary'

Why hasn't The American Legion pressed for Melvin J. Collins to receive the Medal of Honor while he is still with us (December)? He risked his life every time he jumped from his ship to save downed pilots, and he did it again and again. Please consider a campaign to honor him.

– *John Riegler, Flint, Mich.*

'Where Heroes Fell'

One thing is missing from

Jeff Stoffer's article (December). Naval Air Transport Service pilots flew supplies to England for the Normandy invasion. We did not know the purpose of our flights other than we carried cargo to be delivered. It was not until after June 6, 1944, that we realized the impact of our flight. Many articles are written about World War II, but nothing is ever said about the role played by the Navy Air Transport Service.

– *John R. Lugo, Scottsdale, Ariz.*

We very much enjoyed your article about Ste. Mere-Eglise. Knowing several of the people you mentioned, having them to our second home at La Fiere just outside Ste. Mere-Eglise made it very personal for us. My father is a World War II veteran and still going strong at age 91.

We work with a jump team that commemorates the veterans by performing static-line jumps out of a C-47 that flew during World War II. My husband is French, and a former paratrooper, so it is very meaningful to him to honor the veterans who freed his country. The team jumped in France last June and has three jumps scheduled for 2007 in France.

– *Jill and Dominique Launay, Roanoke, Texas*

'Jaded Journalism'

Although I agree with most of his content, some of the statements by Ralph Peters are, in my opinion, way out of line ("Jaded Journalism," October). I am referring to statements about past armed forces, specifically

the following: "America's armed forces today are the best trained and best disciplined we've ever had. Our men and women in uniform are professionals in the best sense of the word. More than that, they're patriots... It's certainly a different, and far better, military than the one I joined as a private 30 years ago."

I joined the Marine Corps in August 1960 and retired in July 1993. I belonged to a highly professional organization, and my fellow warriors were patriots through and through. Our equipment wasn't as sophisticated as it is today, but we got the job done. The battles of Belleau Wood in World War I, Iwo Jima in World War II, the Chosin Reservoir in Korea and the Tet Offensive in Vietnam are prime examples.

Peters' erroneous assessment of past military forces indicates to me that he didn't check his facts, and that he holds some grudge toward past services, specifically the Army. Furthermore, it is rather unprofessional and immature to "bad-mouth" the military services as he did; his statements cannot be interpreted any other way.

On his assessment of the media, Peters fails to mention one important factor: correspondents report the news because that's their job, which hangs in the balance every time they file a story. Oftentimes what the reporter writes is not what is printed; Peters, of all people, should know that publishers, managing editors and editors have the final word.

– *George E. Hajar, Ruther Glen, Va.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.
The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
 magazine@legion.org

When Johnny comes home

Imagine being injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq. You are discharged from the Army with severe wounds and sent back home. The second floor of your home is pretty much inaccessible and it will be at least a few weeks before the contractor can build a wheelchair ramp so you can enter the first. Thoughts of returning to school and finally getting that college degree enter your mind, but it will take months to navigate the bureaucratic maze in the registrar's office, much less obtain all the documentation needed to apply for financial aid. A job? The Army was your intended career and "networking" hasn't exactly been your highest priority since the explosion. Family and friends offer to help, but this is all new to them as well.

Enter The American Legion's Heroes to Hometowns program. From the moment a U.S. servicemember is evacuated after a battlefield injury to the time he or she comes home, The American Legion works on behalf of the wounded warrior to ease the transition home with the highest level of functioning and quality of life. That is why The American Legion now has a full-time representative working at the Pentagon's Military Severely Injured Center. His job is to oversee the Heroes to Hometowns program (H2H), which identifies and coordinates resources in local communities before the servicemember actually returns home.

Just seven months old, the program has spread like wildfire. Most states have set up their own H2H committees, and others are on track to do so. In technical terms, H2H is like a Windows Operating System reconciling other programs to the user. If a returning veteran needs child care, he can call Heroes to Hometowns. Temporary Financial Assistance? Heroes to Hometowns. Lawn-mowing? Heroes to Hometowns. And H2H does not limit itself to American Legion programs. What's important is that the veteran gets the help needed, regardless of the source. If assistance can be provided by VA, DoD, a church or nongovernmental organization, H2H is on a mission to find it.

Not all states and hometowns are equal when it comes to resources and availability of assistance. That is why it is important for all American Legion posts to provide the leadership and coordination needed to activate community resources. First, individual posts can establish Hero Transition Teams (HTT) to work with requests from national and department headquarters concerning returning veterans. Teams should coordinate, delegate, locate and organize other nonprofit organizations, business leaders, chambers of commerce, state and local governments, congressional offices, financial, legal, education and religious institutions, local military units, unions and other organizations interested in providing support. To keep an HTT from resembling a bureaucratic flow chart, one primary "buddy" should serve as the point of contact between the hero and the many people and programs offering help. If you would like to organize a team, call your department headquarters or the national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division at (202) 861-2700.

Many Legionnaires have returned from previous wars with life-altering injuries. Other veterans were there for us. It's now time to continue the legacy.

Paul A. Morin



National Commander
Paul A. Morin

MEMORANDA

RECRUITMENT BONUSES:

U.S. Army soldiers, reserve or active duty, and Army retirees can receive \$2,000 referral bonuses for directing young men and women into the U.S. Army through the Referral Bonus Pilot Program. Soldiers referring members of their immediate families, including spouses, children, parents, stepparents and siblings, are not eligible. Referrals should be made through the Army Referral System – Sergeant Major of the Army Recruiting Team Web site at www.usarec.army.mil/smart. An Army Knowledge Online user name and password are required to access the site, at which soldiers must first establish a user account to make a referral. Referrals may also be made by calling (800) 223-3735, ext. 6-0473.

FUTURE FOR VETERANS:

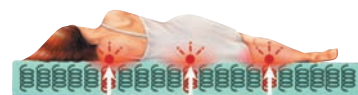
To learn more about the long-range study now under way by the Commission on the Future for America's Veterans, supported by the five largest veterans service organizations in the United States, visit their Web site. www.future4vets.org

ATTENTION BACK-PAIN SUFFERERS:

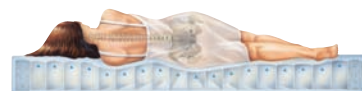
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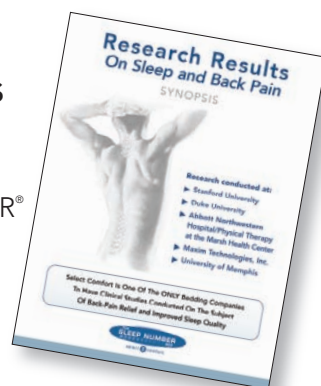
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Independent statehood for Kosovo



SUPPORT

Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y.

■ Engel serves on the House International Relations Committee.



OPPOSE

Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz.

■ Franks serves on the House Armed Services Committee.

In 1999, Slobodan Milosevic, the late president of Yugoslavia and indicted war criminal, directed the killings of thousands of Kosovar Albanians and the forced expulsions of more than 1 million.

Led by the United States, NATO planes ended Milosevic's ethnic cleansing and returned the refugees to their homes. Today, thousands of NATO troops, including more than 1,500 Americans, keep the peace in Kosova. Adored by the vast majority of Kosovars, they are bravely helping maintain stability in majority Albanian, as well as Serb and other minority, communities.

Although it once may have been possible for Kosova to remain inside Serbia, the last remaining part of the former Yugoslavia, that is no longer the case. Serbia lost any right to govern Kosova when Milosevic committed his horrible crimes against humanity there. No Kosovar Albanian would again be governed from Belgrade, Serbia's capital.

Today, the international community is leading "final-status" talks to determine the future of Kosova. It seems clear from all accounts that Kosova will become an independent state. This is the right decision. It aids regional stability by ending a long-festering conflict. Of course, the Kosovar government must protect minority populations, including Serbs, but this obligation does not override the right of the overwhelming majority of Kosovars to determine their own future.

The sooner Belgrade accepts that Kosova is lost, the sooner Serbia sets itself on the path toward becoming a normal, democratic state. I look forward to the independent state of Kosova, not only because it is the rightful wish of its people but because a majority Muslim country standing side by side with the United States will only help with the challenges our nation faces today.

We are in the midst of a war of ideas. The outcome will determine if we will leave for our children – and for humanity – a country and world more or less free, tolerant and peaceful. With this in mind, consider Serbia and the fate of Kosovo.

The Serbian situation is an example of the struggle between an ideology that affirms the sanctity of life and the tolerance of all religions, and an ideology that uses violence to force a majority's will on unwilling

individuals. This is not unlike Israel's struggle against those who seek religious fulfillment by massacring Jews.

Much like Hezbollah, those who lay claim to Kosovo and neighboring lands have made clear their intent to create a religiously and ethnically pure Muslim Albanian state. For Christian Serbs in Kosovo, an independent Kosovo would crush their hope of achieving equality under the law. Since the birth of the Serbian democracy, hundreds of thousands of Christian Serbs and members of other ethnic minorities have been "cleansed" from Kosovo. More than 150 churches and monasteries have been destroyed in the name of Islam. If the international community condones the secession of Kosovo, the message to the world will resound: rebellion and violence beget positive solutions.

Boris Tadic, president of the Republic of Serbia, says, "Democracy is a tool. But in the last century, we have seen how easily that tool has been abused. ... Democracy is about civilized people choosing to be governed by civilized people."

The solution is to cultivate and support freedom, tolerance and self-governance in Serbia. If this happens in a united Serbia that includes Kosovo, it will be a profound victory for the side of freedom and tolerance in this war of ideas.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE
Kosovo – or Kosova, as supporters call it – has become a foreign-policy crisis. Should the province of Serbia become a state? Or would the Christian minority be at risk?

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT BE

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BY MATTHEW SPALDING

George Washington is one of the most recognized figures in U.S. history. But familiarity breeds contempt. More often than not, Washington is an old painting on the wall – solemn, impersonal and distant – or the subject of childhood stories and nursery rhymes. We all know that he chopped down a cherry tree and had wooden teeth.

The actual Washington is much more compelling. We can all see the brilliant flourishes of Jefferson's pen, Madison's constitutional handiwork or the success of Hamilton's economic policies, and that can cause us to overlook or underestimate the magnitude of Washington's achievement. Yet he really was, as Washington's greatest biographer, James Flexner, put it, the "indispensable man" of the American founding.

Remember that we look at history with the luxury of knowing what happened. What might seem inevitable or obvious in hindsight was more often than not a bold course, the outcome of which was uncertain at best. We must recapture this sense of contingency and daring if we are to understand Washington.

A soldier by profession and a surveyor by trade, Washington was first and foremost a man of action. He was at every important intersection of the American founding; his decisions and practical wisdom were crucial to the success of the effort at every stage. And at every moment – from the time he became commander in chief to his death – his project was to found a self-governing nation, a constitutional republic. It is here that we see the brilliance of Washington's statesmanship, his hand on the political pulse of the nation, all the while urging, counseling, warning, bolstering and leading his fellow patriots in their common efforts.

From 1775 onward, when the Continental Congress appointed him military commander of continental forces, Washington personified the

American Revolution and was the de-facto leader of the colonial struggle. For eight years, Gen. Washington led his small army through the rigors of war, from the defeats in New York and the risky crossing of the Delaware River to the hardships of Valley Forge and the ultimate triumph at Yorktown.

Through force of character and great leadership, Washington transformed an underfunded militia into a capable force that, although never able to take the British army head-on, outwitted and defeated the mightiest military power in the world. Washington lost many more battles than he won, but his defensive strategy achieved his political objective: an independent and unified nation.

After the war, Washington was the central hub of

correspondence among the most thoughtful men of the day, leading the effort in nation-building. He was instrumental in bringing about the Constitutional Convention, and his widely publicized participation gave the resulting document a credibility and legitimacy it would otherwise have lacked.

Having been immediately and unanimously elected president of the convention, he worked actively throughout the proceedings to create the new Constitution. "Be assured," James Monroe once reminded Thomas Jefferson, "his influence carried this government."

As our first president, he set the precedents that define what it means to be a constitutional executive: strong and energetic, aware of the limits of authority but guarding the prerogatives of office. The vast powers of the presidency, as one Convention delegate wrote, would not have been made as great "had not many of the members cast their eyes towards General Washington as president; and shaped their ideas of the powers to be given to a president by their opinions of his virtue."

And the key ingredient in all of these things was moral character, something that Washington took very seriously and which gave to his decision-

"There is one reward that nothing can deprive me of, and that is the consciousness of having done my duty with the strictest rectitude and most scrupulous exactness."

George Washington to Lund
Washington, Morristown, May 19, 1780



The Lansdowne Portrait

Gilbert Stuart's full-length portrait portrays a George Washington for the ages, grand not as a king but as a stalwart representative of the republic. The painting, done in 1796, is known as the Lansdowne Portrait because it was a gift to the Marquis of Lansdowne, an English supporter of American independence, by Sen. and Mrs. William Bingham of Pennsylvania.

The portrait was painted as Washington prepared to step down from his second term as president. Filled with symbolism of Washington's character as well as that of the fledgling democracy, the portrait currently hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington.

In 2000, when the painting's British owner put it up for sale, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation made a \$30 million gift to the gallery to save the portrait for future Americans.

View the portrait online
www.georgewashington.si.edu/portrait

making a deeply prudential quality and to his authority an unmatched magnanimity. "His integrity was pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives of interest or consanguinity, of friendship or hatred, being able to bias his decision," Jefferson later observed. "He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good, and a great man."

It is no coincidence, then, that Washington's most important legacy comes during moments of temptation, when the lure of power was before him. Twice during the Revolution, in 1776 and again in 1777 when Congress was forced to aban-

don Philadelphia in the face of advancing British troops, Gen. Washington was granted virtually unlimited powers to maintain the war effort and preserve civil society, powers not unlike those assumed in an earlier era by Roman dictators. He shouldered the responsibility but gave the authority back as soon as possible.

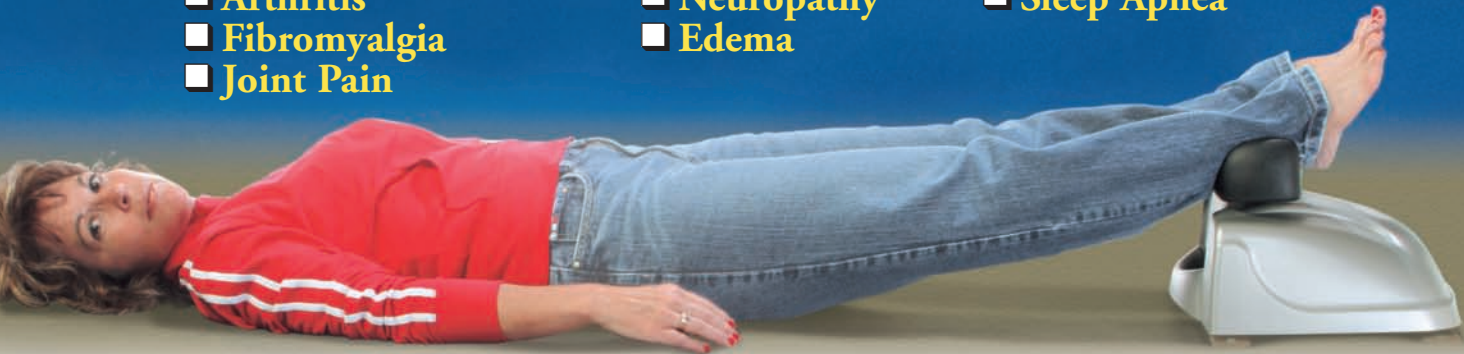
After the war, there were calls for Washington to claim formal political power. Indeed, seven months after the victory at Yorktown, one of his officers suggested what many thought only reasonable in the context of the 18th century: that America should establish a monarchy and that

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- Arthritis
- Fibromyalgia
- Joint Pain

- Constipation
- Back Pain
- Diabetes
- Neuropathy
- Edema

- Stiff Muscles
- Poor Circulation
- Insomnia
- Sleep Apnea



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What people are saying about the Exerciser 2000™ Elite

I love using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ after my morning workout. It is an excellent way to cool down and it helps to start my day off right.

—Deanna C., Kansas

After using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ twice a day for one week the swelling in my ankles went away. It has also helped my breathing, as I can get out and walk without having to stop and catch my breath! Thank you. —Shirley H., Florida

I have had constipation problems for over 25 years. Since I have been using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ I have been regular every day and have begun to lose weight. This is truly a blessing and is so easy to use. —Jeannie

My husband and I have been into natural products all of our lives but nothing has ever affected us like the Exerciser 2000™ Elite. My husband is 72 and delivers flowers all day long. He has to carry 5 gallon buckets of water and flowers that would give him backaches. Since using the machine, his back hasn't hurt him at all. My hips would hurt if I stood too long and I would get weak and have to sit down. Now it doesn't bother me at all. I can walk and sit as long as I want. I don't have to take pain medication anymore. When I get up in the morning, I jump right out of bed and I'm not stiff anymore. At 65, wow, this is great! Thank you for offering such a great machine. We are going to tell everyone we know about it. —Cheryl J.

After having a stroke, I could no longer exercise the way I used to. As a result, I developed edema. A friend of mine introduced me to the Exerciser 2000

Elite™. I loved it and I purchased one for myself. After using the machine daily for a few weeks, my symptoms of edema were completely gone. I now use the machine twice a day for 16 minutes each time on speed 3. What a wonderful way to exercise. —Robert M.

I am in my late 80's and have diabetes. The first thing I noticed when I started using my machine was that my feet were warm when I went to bed. They were always ice cold before. Because one of my problems is poor circulation, I use the machine three times a day for 10 minutes each; in the morning, late afternoon and just before bed. I almost forgot to mention that I have not been able to lift my arms above my head. Now I can do it. You think that's no big deal until you can't do it anymore. —Ralph K.

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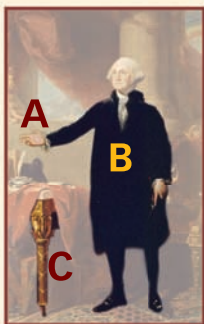
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Decoding the painting

A Gesture Some think Washington is pointing toward the future. Others believe he is saying farewell. When this portrait was painted, he was about to leave office after two terms as U.S. president. An observer saw him “bestowing his good advice to his countrymen.”

B Clothing Kings dressed in royal robes, but Americans needed Washington to be a different kind of leader. The formal black suit emphasized Washington’s status as a citizen.

C Table leg Like the eagle on the Great Seal, the two eagles at the top of the table leg each hold in one claw a bundle of arrows, a symbol of war. But unlike the eagle on the Seal, neither holds an olive branch, the symbol of peace, in the other claw.



Washington should become king. A shocked Washington immediately rejected the offer out of hand as both inappropriate and dishonorable, and demanded the topic never be raised again.

More subtle and problematic was a move by a group of officers in 1783 to use the military, with or without Washington’s participation, to threaten the Continental Congress in order to ensure their payment of the army. The Newburgh Conspiracy placed Washington in a critical and delicate position. Had he either ignored the discontent or tacitly approved it, the political outcome would have been different and the possibility of a peaceful resolution of constitutional questions less likely.

On top of that, several political leaders welcomed the army’s pressure, and wanted to use the threat as a way of strengthening their call for a stronger national government. Congressman Alexander Hamilton recommended that Washington “take the direction of them” and lead the effort.

But Washington would have none of it. “The Army,” he rebuked young Hamilton, “is a dangerous instrument to play with.” Instead, he responded to the unsigned papers calling for the army to stand up against the political leadership, by holding a meeting of his officers for March 15 – the Ides of March – 1783. There, Washington denounced the move as destructive of the very ground of republican government, and expressed his “utmost horror and detestation” of those who would “open the flood Gates of Civil discord, and deluge our rising Empire in Blood.”

After the speech, Washington drew a letter from his pocket expressing Congress’ intention to redress the army. He hesitated, pulled out a pair of glasses and remarked, “Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray, but almost blind, in the service of my country.” Many of the officers were in tears. If the speech had not already destroyed the movement, this remark assured its demise.

“On other occasions he had been supported by the exertions of the army and the countenance of his friends,” wrote Capt. Samuel Shaw of the episode, “but in this he stood single and alone.”

By year’s end, Washington, victorious in war, proceeded voluntarily to resign his military commission. When he stepped down again, after his second term as president, a dumbfounded King George III proclaimed him “the greatest character of the age.” His peaceful transfer of the presidency to John Adams in 1797 inaugurated one of America’s greatest democratic traditions.

Without Washington, America would never have won its war of independence; he was the catalyst of the American founding. Even more significant, he proved that republican government was not only possible but indeed noble. Defeated and exiled, Napoleon lamented the significance of it all: “They wanted me to be another Washington.”

No one did more to put the United States on the path to success than Washington. No one did more to assure a government with sufficient power to function but sufficient limits to allow freedom to flourish. No one walked away from power with more dignity or did more to assure the prosperous society we enjoy today. This is why Washington and Washington alone – not Jefferson, not Madison, not Hamilton – is the father of this country.

Celebrated as early as 1778, Washington’s Birthday was by the early 18th century second only to the Fourth of July as a patriotic holiday. It was officially recognized by Congress as a national holiday in 1870. The Monday Holiday Law in 1968 moved it from Feb. 22 to the third Monday in February. Contrary to popular opinion, though, no act of Congress or order by any president has changed Washington’s Birthday to “Presidents Day.”

If Americans wish to honor George Washington, they should recall his deeds, recollect his advice, and once again call the holiday celebrating him what it is, in fact: Washington’s Birthday. 🌿

Matthew Spalding is director of the B. Kenneth Simon Center for American Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

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A Change of Course

New House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner faces tough fiscal challenges in the Democrat-controlled 110th Congress. To tackle them, he plans to actively involve The American Legion and other veterans groups.



Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., did not serve in the military, but he's spent 14 years in Washington serving those who did. In December, Filner moved up from his longtime position on the House Veterans Affairs Committee to fill the chairman's seat. He replaces Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind.

A former history professor, civil-rights activist, school board member and San Diego city official, Filner was elected to Congress in 1992. He becomes the first member of his party in 12 years to lead the House Veterans Affairs Committee, which enters the 110th Congress without a VA budget for 2007; VA began the year operating at 2006 funding levels, under a resolution that expires Feb. 15. Other issues facing the committee include VA health-care funding, mental-health needs of new war veterans, legal representation in claims disputes, VA service backlogs, information security and the need for a 21st-century GI Bill.

Filner, 64, recently took time to speak with *The American Legion Magazine*.

Q: What direction do you see the committee heading under your leadership?

A: First, we are going to re-establish public hearings so veterans will have a better sense of what's going on and a personal view, which I think is important both for the committee and for the veterans.

Projects and their pricetags

The Veterans Benefits, Health Care and Information Technology Improvement Act of 2006 – passed in the final hours of the 109th Congress – sent to the president's desk a long list of VA construction projects, some of which were carryovers from previous budget years. Many of the projects were identified as priorities under the landmark 2004 Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services decision but as yet had not received actual funds. Authorization from Congress does not guarantee dollars in the current fiscal year, but it does reaffirm legislative intent to pay for the projects. Among the major VA

construction work authorized by S. 3421, which passed early in the morning Dec. 9, are:

Las Vegas

\$406 million To complete a new VA medical center, as recommended by CARES, replacing a collection of leased clinics now serving one of the nation's fastest-growing veteran populations. The project received approximately \$260 million through fiscal 2006, but the remainder was not included in the president's 2007 budget request for VA. Ground was broken on the project last October.

Orlando, Fla.

\$377,700,000 For construction of a

VA medical center, as recommended by CARES. The project spent most of 2006 hung up over two possible sites for the new facility. Like Las Vegas, Orlando has one of the fastest-growing and largest veteran populations in the country without a VA medical center.

New Orleans

\$300 million To restore, build or replace the VA medical center, which was reduced to two floors of outpatient service by Hurricane Katrina. While VA lost acute-care services, the state lost its entire public hospital downtown in the disaster. VA is authorized to carry out

I think we are going to have an agenda that looks toward a “21st-century GI Bill.” We’re going to update things that have gotten out of whack, like education benefits that barely cover a fifth of college costs. The National Guard and reserve units that are doing so much of the fighting in Iraq don’t have access to most of the benefits others do. We want to incorporate them.

We’re going to look at some issues from the past that have a lot of current (relevance) – the issue of mental health, for example. We are not doing all we can do for those coming back from Iraq with things like PTSD. We have a long history that goes back to Vietnam, where people came home with mental illness and we didn’t treat it. Now they’re homeless. We are going to operate more focused on the needs of the veterans. It looked like Buyer was brought in to cut back on things. We want to expand, in a time of war especially. The morale of troops is influenced by how they think veterans are handled.

Q: *How much attention do you think the committee will give the creation of a 21st-century GI Bill?*

A: I think the first half-year of our (session) will be taken up with that kind of thing. There is general agreement on the substantive parts. We want to work closely with the Senate. I want to do our goals and authorizations quickly, then concentrate on funding. That’s going to be the job of the veterans community, to help get the necessary funding.

Q: *We have heard that in recent years VA has received more funding than ever before, but are resources keeping up with demand?*

A: No. The administration has increased funding

over the past five years. That’s true in absolute dollars, but the needs have increased faster than the dollars. Whether it’s inflation itself, aging populations, hepatitis C, brain injuries – all these things demand funding. We have to, as a society, say, “Look, this is a cost of war.” We are willing to put a billion dollars every couple of days into Iraq. Certainly we should be able to put in a few billion to make sure veterans are well cared for.

Q: *You have spoken often about long waiting times for veterans seeking appointments and claims decisions. How do you tackle those problems?*

A: I think we want to establish goals for accountability. I want to know from VA how they can deal with all claims, let’s say, in 180 days. Right now, we have an almost 700,000 backlog. That’s immoral. We’re going to work with VA to set reasonable goals. I want to do it constructively.

Q: *Did VA do enough to prevent another security breach after the computer was stolen containing millions of veteran records last year? Are veterans still at risk?*

A: I think they are still at risk. We’ve got a long way to go. If that laptop had not been recovered, we would still be in deep problems. I’m still not convinced. I hope the FBI was right and the data was not accessed. I’m not sure we ever had a clear understanding of who had stolen it and why.

Q: *Let’s run through through your prognosis for VA health care in the new session. First, what about a mandatory funding formula?*

A: I should have put that right up front. That’s

the replacement of its medical center in collaboration with Louisiana State University, which runs the New Orleans Charity Hospital system.

Biloxi, Miss.

\$310 million For consolidation of services from hurricane-ravaged Gulfport VA Medical Center into one facility at Biloxi, a consolidation recommended earlier under CARES.

Pittsburgh

\$189,205,000 To consolidate the Pittsburgh VA Health-Care System into the John Heinz III and University Drive divisions, closing the Highland Drive division.

Long Beach, Calif.

\$107,845,000 For seismic corrections at the VA medical center.

Brecksville, Ohio

\$102,300,00 To consolidate the Brecksville VA Medical Center into the Cleveland VA Medical Center, as recommended by CARES.

Denver

\$98 million To be used toward the CARES-recommended replacement of the Denver VA Medical Center, along with a requirement that the VA secretary explore partnership options.

Gainesville, Fla.

\$85.2 million To correct patient-

privacy deficiencies at the VA medical center.

Los Angeles

\$79.9 million For seismic corrections at the VA medical center.

Syracuse, N.Y.

\$77.7 million For a new spinal-cord injury center.

Anchorage, Alaska

\$75,270,000 To build a new outpatient clinic and regional office.

St. Louis

\$69,053,000 For medical center improvements and cemetery expansion.

going to be a major part of what we are calling the “21st-century GI Bill.” Everybody on the committee, I think, wants to do that. I don’t know how people off the committee – like the appropriators – feel about it. I think we need it. The question becomes, is the formula you use adequate?

Q: *How do you feel about giving VA the ability to bill Medicare for reimbursement?*

A: I hope we can move in that direction. It would have to be done in a way that augments VA and doesn’t move funds out of VA to be replaced by Medicare.

Q: *You’ve been vocally opposed to any new enrollment fees and increased deductibles for certain veterans who use VA. Is it safe to assume that hasn’t changed?*

A: Yeah, we fought those pretty hard, and we’re going to continue to do that.

Q: *Can you envision lifting the suspension on new VA enrollment of Priority Group 8 veterans?*

A: Oh yeah. This whole priority system was developed to make sure the most needy get help first, but we have an obligation to every veteran. We have the money. It’s a question of priorities. So, yeah, I’d want to bring them all into the system.

Q: *What about funding for VA construction?*

A: Obviously, we are behind where we should be. But we’re trying to work within a balanced-budget format. That’s going to be quite difficult. We’re going to fight for as much money as we can, but that’s going to be the challenge of governing – how you get sufficient funds to meet these demands.

Q: *How do you see the future of collaborative hospital building between VA and its medical school affiliates, as in the Charleston, S.C., model?*

A: Obviously, we’re going to have to think in new ways. There are all kind of creative things you can do when you start thinking about collaborations.

Q: *You see mental health and long-term care as high priorities.*

A: Yes, and looking at it in a real pro-active way, as opposed to a reactive way. We’re not out there searching for people. We should be. The Vietnam experience showed us what happens when young people are not understanding their mental issues and getting help for it. They end up in a pretty predictable pattern of domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, loss of job, loss of home, loss of family, even suicide. We know what happens. The same is true of the signature injury of the war, the brain injury. These injuries will come back and be a lot harder to deal with later in life. Just because someone doesn’t check something on a questionnaire or they aren’t immediately diagnosed, that does not end our responsibility.

Q: *What kind of counsel will you seek from The American Legion and other veterans groups?*

A: They have been my teachers and my mentors on all this. The American Legion and others have people all over the country. They have very competent staff. Their priorities are my priorities. They’re going to be intimately involved. I’ve worked with them for 14 years, and I ain’t gonna stop now. 🌿

Interview: Jeff Stoffer

Lee County, Fla.

\$65.1 million For a new ambulatory surgery/outpatient diagnostic support center and land purchase.

Fayetteville, Ark.

\$56,163,000 For a new clinical addition to the VA medical center.

Tampa, Fla.

\$49 million To upgrade essential electrical distribution systems in the VA medical center, and

\$7.1 million To expand the spinal-cord injury center.

Temple, Texas

\$56 million For renovations of blind rehabilitation and psychiatric facilities

and new construction at the VA medical center.

American Lake, Wash.

\$38,220,000 For seismic corrections, a nursing-home care unit and dietetics at the VA medical center.

Charleston, S.C.

\$36.8 million To plan and design a co-located medical center in partnership between the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and the Medical University of South Carolina.

Milwaukee

\$32.5 million For a new spinal-cord injury center.

Indianapolis

\$27.4 million To modernize 7th- and 8th-floor wards of the medical center.

Columbia, Mo.

\$25,830,000 To replace the operating suite in the medical center.

Des Moines, Iowa

\$25 million To build a new extended-care building at the medical center.

San Antonio

\$19.1 million For ward upgrades and expansion of the medical center.

Durham, N.C.

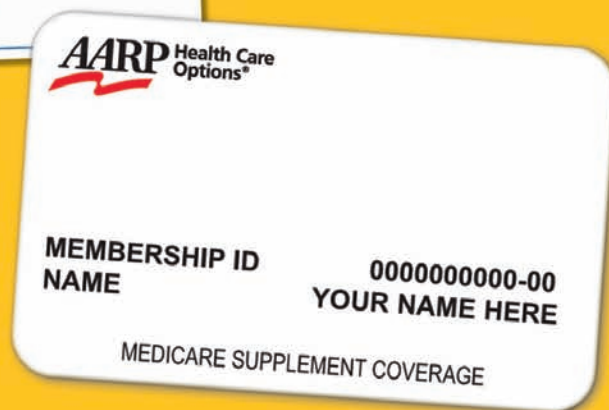
\$9.1 million Renovation of patient wards at the medical center.

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***Government Accountability Office (GAO); Report GAO-04-960, "Medicare Demonstration PPO's Financial and other Advantages for Plans, Few Advantages for Beneficiaries." Washington, DC, September 2004.

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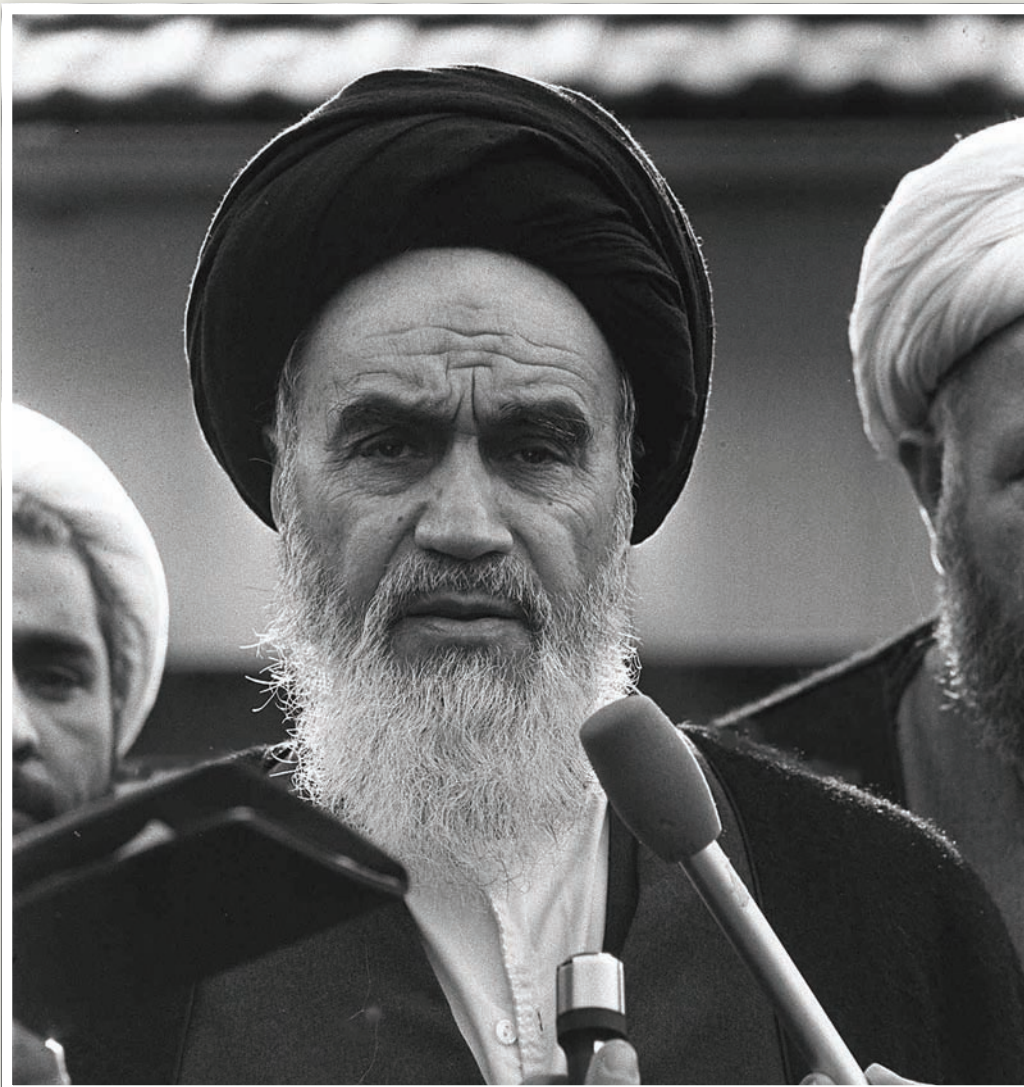


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How We Lost Iran

And why we can't afford another loss in Iraq.

BY DINESH D'SOUZA



There are four important Muslim countries in the Middle East: Iran, Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Islamic radicals control Iran, and have since the Khomeini revolution a quarter century ago. Now they have their sights on Iraq. If they get Iraq, we can be sure they will target Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Let's remember that this is a region upon which the United States will continue to be oil-dependent for the foreseeable future. If the Islamic radicals succeed, the American way of life will be seriously threatened.

To understand the high stakes in Iraq, it's helpful to understand what happened in Iran a generation ago. How did America "lose" Iran, and how can we avoid another debacle in Iraq? Islamic radicals have been around since the 1920s, but for decades they were outsiders even in the Muslim countries. One of their leading theoreticians, Sayyid Qutb, argued that radical Muslims could not just promulgate theories and have meetings; they must seek to realize the Islamic state "in a concrete form." What was needed, he wrote, was "to initiate the movement of Islamic revival in some Muslim country." Once the radicals controlled a major state, he suggested, they could then use it as a beachhead for launching the takeover of other Muslim countries. The ultimate objective was the unification of the Muslim community into a single Islamic nation, governed by Islamic holy law.

In 1979, Qutb's goal was achieved when the Ayatollah Khomeini seized power in Iran. Muslim scholar Hamid Algar terms the Khomeini revolution "the most significant event in contemporary Islamic history." It was an event comparable to the French or the Russian revolutions. Virtually no one predicted it, yet it overturned the entire imperial structure and created a new order, even a new way of life. The mullahs restored the Islamic calendar, abolished Western languages from the schools, instituted an Islamic curriculum, declared a new set of religious holidays, stopped men from wearing ties, required women to cover their heads, changed the banking system to outlaw usury or interest,

LEFT: Ayatollah Khomeini conducts a press conference on Feb. 5, 1979, in Tehran. AP



An Iranian protester sets fire to a U.S. flag as other demonstrators give clenched-fist salutes during an anti-American protest in Tehran on Nov. 5, 1979. The Khomeini revolution gave Islamic extremists what they had long sought: control of a major Islamic state, governed by Islamic law. Now the same breed of radicals have their sights set on neighboring Iraq, and beyond that, the entire Muslim world. AP/Mohammad Sayad

abolished Western-style criminal and civil laws, and placed the entire society under *sharia*, or laws based on the Koran.

The importance of the Khomeini revolution is that it demonstrated the viability of the Islamic theocracy in the modern age. Before Khomeini, the prospect of a large Muslim nation being ruled by clergy according to 8th-century precepts would have seemed far-fetched, even preposterous. Khomeini showed it could be done, and his successors have shown that it can last. To this day, post-Khomeini Iran provides a viable model of what the Islamic radicals hope to achieve throughout the Muslim world. Khomeini also popularized the idea of the United States as a "great Satan." Before Khomeini, no Muslim head of state had said this about America. Muslim leaders like Nasser might disagree with the

United States, but they never identified it as the primary source of evil on the planet. During the Khomeini era, there were large demonstrations by frenzied Muslims who cursed the United States and burned its flag. For the first time, banners and posters began to appear all over Iran: DEATH TO AMERICA! THE GREAT SATAN WILL INCUR GOD'S PUNISHMENT! USA, GO TO HELL! AMERICA IS OUR NO. 1 ENEMY! These slogans have since become the mantra of Islamic radicalism. Khomeini was also the first Muslim leader in the modern era to advocate violence as a religious duty and to give special place to martyrdom. Since Khomeini, Islamic radicalism has continued to attract aspiring martyrs ready to confront the Great Satan. In this sense, the seeds of 9/11 were sown a quarter of a century ago when Khomeini and his followers captured the government in Tehran.

Khomeini's ascent to power was aided by the policies of Jimmy Carter and his allies on the political left. The Carter administration's own expert on Iran, Gary Sick, provides the details in his memoir "All Fall Down," a riveting story that has been largely erased from our national memory. Carter won the presidency in 1976 by stressing his support for human rights. From the time he took office, the left contrasted Carter's rights doctrine with the Shah's practices. The left denounced the Shah as a vicious and corrupt dictator, highlighting and in some cases magnifying his misdeeds. Left-leaning officials such as Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, U.N. envoy Andrew Young and State Department human-rights officer Patricia Derian pressed Carter to sever America's longstanding alliance with the Shah. Eventually Carter came to agree with his advisers that he could not in good conscience support the Shah.

When the Shah moved to arrest mullahs who called for his overthrow, the United States and Europe denounced his actions. Former diplomat George Ball called on the U.S. government to curtail the Shah's exercise of power. Acceding to this pressure, Carter called for the release of political prisoners and warned the Shah not to use force against the demonstrators in the streets. When the Shah petitioned the Carter administration to purchase tear gas and riot-control gear, the human-rights office in the State Department held up the request. Some, like State Department official Henry Precht, urged the United States to prepare the way for

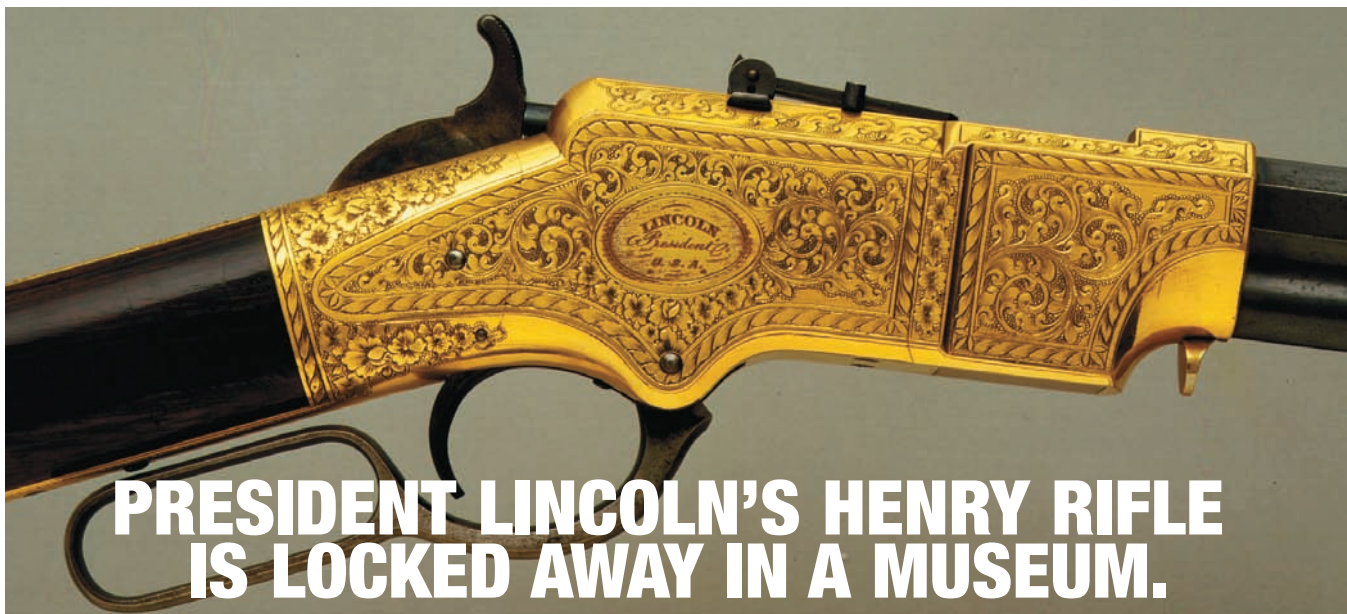


Militant Muslims chant outside the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on Nov. 8, 1979, while holding up a poster caricaturing President Jimmy Carter. His policies enabled the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini. AP

the Shah to make a "graceful exit" from power. William Miller, chief of staff on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the United States had nothing to fear from Khomeini since he would be a progressive force for human rights. U.S. Ambassador William Sullivan even compared Khomeini to Mahatma Gandhi, and Andrew Young termed the ayatollah a "20th-century saint."

As the resistance gained momentum and the Shah's position weakened, he looked to the U.S. government to help him. Sick reports that the Shah discovered he had many enemies, and few friends, in the Carter administration. Increasingly paranoid, he pleaded with the United States to help him stay in power. Carter refused. Deprived of his last hope, with the Persian rug pulled out from under him, the Shah decided to abdicate. The Carter administration encouraged him to do so, and the cultural left celebrated his departure. The result, of course, was Khomeini.

The Carter administration's role in the downfall of the Shah is one of America's great foreign-policy disasters of the 20th century. In



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trying to get rid of the bad guy, Carter got the worse guy. His failure, as former Democratic senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan once said, was the result of being “unable to distinguish between America’s friends and enemies.” According to Moynihan, the Carter administration had essentially adopted “the enemy’s view of the world.” Carter does not deserve sole discredit for these actions. This intellectual framework that shaped Carter’s misguided strategy was supplied by the political left.

Of course, the primary force behind the Shah’s fall was the fundamentalist movement led by Khomeini. But it is possible that the Shah, with U.S. support, could have defeated this resistance. Another option would have been for the United States to use its influence to press for democratic elections, an option unattractive both to the Shah and to the Islamic militants. Even after the Shah’s departure, a U.S. force could have routed the Khomeini regime – an action that would have been fully justified given Iran’s seizure of the U.S. embassy and the taking of American hostages. Determined at all costs to prevent these outcomes, the left sought not only to demonize the Shah but also to favorably portray Khomeini and his radical cohorts. In Sick’s words, Khomeini became “the instant darling of the Western media.” The tone of American press coverage can be gleaned from *Time*’s cover story on Feb. 12, 1979: “Now that the country’s cry for the Ayatollah’s return has been answered, Iranians will surely insist that the revolution live up to its democratic aims. Khomeini believes that Iran should become a parliamentary democracy. Those who know the ayatollah expect that eventually he will settle in the holy city of Qom and resume a life of teaching and prayer.”

Immediately following Khomeini’s seizure of power, political scientist Richard Falk wrote in the Feb. 16, 1979, *New York Times*, “To suppose that Ayatollah Khomeini is dissembling seems almost beyond belief. He has been depicted in a manner calculated to frighten. The depiction of him as fanatical, reactionary and the bearer of crude prejudices seems certainly and happily false. His close advisers are uniformly composed of moderate, progressive individuals ... who share a notable record of concern with human rights. What is distinctive about his vision is the concern with resisting oppression and promoting social justice. Many non-

religious Iranians talk of this period as Islam’s finest hour. Iran may yet provide us with a desperately needed model of humane governance for a Third World country.”

The naiveté of Falk’s essay is of such magnitude as to be almost unbelievable. Falk should have known better, and I believe he did know better. Sick notes that in terms of the kind of regime he wanted to institute in Iran, “Khomeini was remarkably candid in describing his objectives.” As an expert on international relations, Falk was surely familiar with what Khomeini had been consistently saying for three decades. Along with Ramsey Clark, former attorney general in the Johnson administration, Falk met with Khomeini on his last day in Paris, before his triumphal return to Iran. Shortly after that meeting Clark conducted a press conference to champion Khomeini’s cause. Falk, too, seems to have acted as a kind of unpaid public-relations agent for the ayatollah’s regime.

Upon consolidating his power, Khomeini launched a bloody campaign of wiping out his political opposition and reversing the liberties extended by the Shah to student groups, women’s groups and religious minorities. In one year, the Khomeini revolution killed more people than the Shah had executed during his entire quarter-century reign. Despite the fact that many progressive figures were imprisoned, tortured and executed, Khomeini’s actions produced a great yawn of indifference from America’s cultural left. The same people who were shocked and outraged by the crimes of the Shah showed no comparable outrage at the greater crimes of Khomeini. They knew, as well as everyone else, that liberty would be largely extinguished in Iran, and they greeted this prospect with equanimity.

Even when radical students overran the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on Nov. 4, 1979, and took more than 60 American hostages, the left’s sympathy was with the hostage-takers. During this period, three liberal clergymen – William Sloane Coffin of New York’s Riverside Church, National Council of Churches executive director William Howard and Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton – visited the hostages and looked with approval as they recorded anti-U.S. statements for use as Iranian propaganda. The U.S. religious leaders did not seem embarrassed to be used by the Iranian hostage-takers. Many of the allegations against the United States

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launched by the Iranian radicals corresponded exactly with the views of these liberal clergymen. Going beyond the expectations of the hostage-takers, Coffin even faulted his fellow Americans for “self pity” and urged them to hold hands with their captors and sing. In the hostage crisis, these clergymen quite consciously contributed to America’s humiliation.

By aiding the Shah’s ouster and with Khomeini’s consolidation of power, the left collaborated in giving radical Islam its greatest victory in the modern era. Thanks in part to Jimmy Carter, Muslim radicals got what they had been seeking for a long time: control of a major Islamic state. Now, irony of ironies, Carter and some of the same people who lost Iran are back in the news, criticizing the Bush administration for what it is doing in Iraq. Some of their points may be valid, but once again, they are forgetting that when you try and get rid of something terrible, you should at least make sure that you don’t get something even more terrible. Carter never understood that, and he still doesn’t. Rather than dispensing advice, the 39th president should be offering the United States an apology.

Yes, what’s going on in Iraq today is not pretty, but that could be said of just about any war. In trying to escape from a difficult situation, America should not put itself into an even more perilous situation. We should always keep in mind what’s at stake in this conflict. Today in Iraq, the Islamic radicals are after their second big prize. Iraq is, in a sense, even more important to the radicals than Iran. The reason is that the Khomeini Revolution, despite its global aspirations, proved to be very difficult to export. Iranians are Persian, and thus ethnically distinct from the Arabs who dominate the Middle East. Even within Islam, Iranians belong to the Shia minority, while 80 percent of Muslims worldwide are Sunni. Consequently, Islamic radicals have been attempting for the better part of two decades now to carry the revolution beyond Iran, to bring a second Muslim state under radical

Iran by the numbers

68,688,433 Estimated population as of July 2006
18,986,000 Land-line telephones
7,500,000 Internet users
7,222,000 Cellular phones
1,648,000 Area in kilometers (slightly larger than Alaska)
250,000 Iranian soldiers currently stationed in the five Iranian provinces bordering Iraq

89 Percentage of Shia Muslims (Sunni Muslim, 9 percent; Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian and Haha’i, 2 percent)
70.26 Life expectancy at birth
40 Percent of Iranians below poverty line
21 Consecutive years the United States has listed Iran as a leading state sponsor of terrorism
11.2 Percent unemployment

Source: The American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, CIA’s “World Factbook”

control, and to establish a model for theocracy and terrorism that the Sunni majority in the Islamic world can emulate. So unlike in Vietnam, the United States faces an adversary that is not merely ideologically hostile, but one whose success would threaten our vital interests and our security, as well as our economic well-being.

Given this, the insouciance and even anticipation with which some of the Bush administration’s critics propose prompt U.S. withdrawal from Iraq is remarkable. In a recent article in *Harper’s*, former presidential candidate George McGovern proposed that the United States get out of Iraq, give up its bases there, apologize for having invaded in the first place, accept responsibility for any bloodbath that ensues, and offer to pay reparations to Iraq for its war crimes. This advice goes beyond recklessness. What do McGovern and his allies think is going to happen when U.S. troops leave? They seem eerily eager for the insurgents to topple the elected government and seize power. Apparently their dislike for President Bush is great enough that they are willing to risk the country falling into the hands of Islamic radicals. Little do the people waging “the war against the war” know that, in exchange for a temporary political advantage, they are gravely endangering America’s security and well-being, ultimately even their own. 🌿

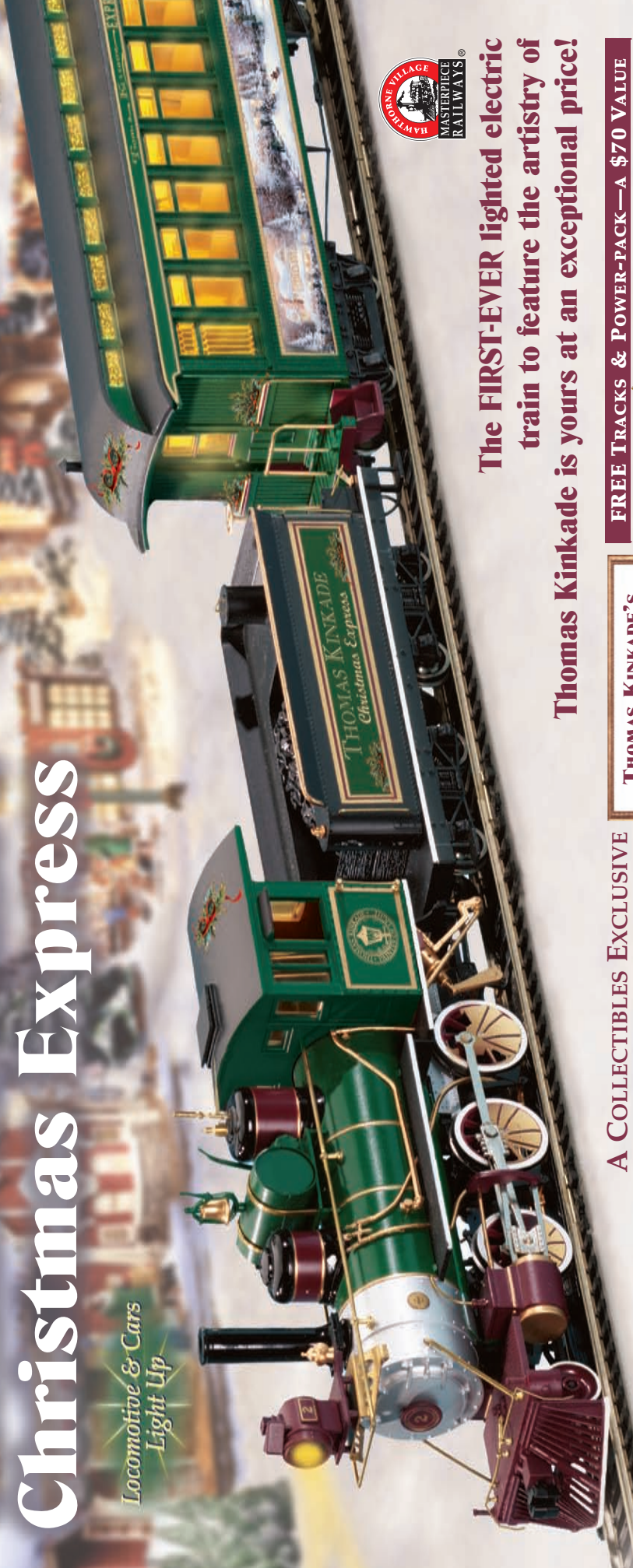
Adapted from Dinesh D’Souza’s new book, “The Enemy at Home: The Cultural Left and Its Responsibility for 9/11” (Doubleday). D’Souza is the Rishwain Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. dineshjd Souza@aol.com

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None dare call them prisoners

America could use a little less compassion and a lot more force at Gitmo.

BY RICHARD MINITER

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba – Military officers are forbidden to use the word “prisoners” when describing the 440 terrorists housed here. (The preferred term is “detainees.”) But they talk about them constantly.

A favorite story: a detainee who lost a leg fighting U.S. forces in Afghanistan was given a prosthetic leg. Now he is back in Gitmo’s base hospital

because he broke his good ankle playing soccer. This detainee tale, usually told with a chuckle by uniformed officers, sums up America’s absurd and politically correct exercise in terrorist detention.

There is little doubt this strange tale is true. Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., who commands the joint task force that guards and interrogates the Gitmo detainees, confirmed it to me. The military appears to like this story because it seems to show its good side: “Look, free medical care! Soccer fields! Fun in the sun for hardened terrorists! See how we care! Our critics couldn’t be more wrong!”

The story also reveals something far more troubling, like what happens when a president and his staff listen too closely to critics who have

quietly lost their minds. Some have compared Guantanamo to the Soviet Gulag, others to Nazi Germany. Even a brief visit to Gitmo reveals how delusional those critics are. Hint: the Gulag didn’t provide soccer fields and free dental care, and concentration-camp survivors did not gain so much weight that the Nazis had to treat them for diabetes.

Indeed, sometimes it seems those compassionate conservatives in the White House have also lost their minds. Striking the balance between humane treatment for detainees and foreknowledge of deadly attacks to save American lives is difficult, but the Bush administration seems to lean too far in the direction of the detainees. That means America might not be learning all it could about future attacks, thereby risking lives.

No reasonable person could say these detainees are mistreated, let alone tortured. Detainees are entitled to bottled water any time they request it, day or night. Detainees are entitled to a full eight hours sleep and aren’t to be awoken for any reason, except fire. They enjoy three meals and five prayers per day, without interruption. They are entitled to a minimum of two hours of outdoor recreation per day (some enjoy as many as 12 outdoor hours per

COMMENTARY

LEFT: Detainees stand together at a fence, one holding Islamic prayer beads, inside Camp Delta prison at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base, Cuba. AP/Brennan Linsley

day). Forget convicts – these detainees live better than many working Americans.

Respect for the detainees' religious rites could not be stronger. The caged terrorists hear the call to prayer five times per day. In one model cell I observed, the Koran dangled from the bars inside a surgical mask. The U.S. military provides the Koran in 11 languages. When I asked if I could pick up the Koran (I wanted to verify it was too big to fit down the cell's toilet), the guard told me I was forbidden to touch it. Why? He explained that non-Muslims may never touch Islam's holy book. Funny – I didn't know that Islam is now the established religion of the United States.

Of course, the U.S. taxpayer generously pays Muslim chaplains to minister to the detainees. Orange pylons in cell-block halls prevent guards from accidentally disturbing Taliban and al-Qaeda prisoners at prayer.

Finally, while detainees hear the call to prayer five times per day, they object to hearing "The Star-Spangled Banner" over camp loudspeakers – a tradition at sundown on the U.S. base. So the military brass agreed to turn it down.

Food is strictly *halal*. (The guards eat the same chow as the detainees, unless they venture to one of the on-base restaurants.) Detainees have a choice of four *halal* meals (the Islamic version of kosher): standard, vegetarian, vegetarian with fish, and bland for those with digestive issues. A typical detainee meal, which I consumed at Gitmo, consists of rice, chicken, pita bread, an Arabic-style salad, Yoplait yogurt (Mountain Blueberry in my case), two juice boxes of Fruit Blasters brand orange juice, and a whole orange. I couldn't eat it all, but somehow they do.

This diet amounts to some 4,200 calories per day. On this meal plan, one detainee, who arrived at Gitmo weighing some 225 pounds, ballooned up to 405. Gitmo medical personnel say the average body-mass index of detainees has swollen from 23.3 to 26.4, from skinny to moderately obese. Weight gain is becoming a major problem, a camp doctor admitted, adding that he already treats a number of detainees for diabetes.

No expense is spared for al-Qaeda health care. Some 5,000 dental operations (including teeth cleanings) and 5,000 vaccinations on a total of 550 detainees have been performed since 2002, all at taxpayer expense. Eyeglasses? Nearly 175 pairs

have been handed out. Twenty-two detainees have taxpayer-bought prosthetic limbs, mostly legs. Even depressed al-Qaeda fighters are prescribed Prozac. American Legion National Commander Paul A. Morin, who toured Camp Delta last February, has said the detainees receive better health care than many of our nation's veterans.

What if a detainee confesses to doctors a weakness that might be useful to interrogators, such as a fear of the dark? I asked the doctor in charge if he would share that information. "My job is not to make interrogations more efficient," he said, firmly. He cited doctor-patient privacy. (He also asked that his name not be printed, citing the potential for al-Qaeda retaliation.) Like the lawyers we will meet later, he seemed to put his professional ethics ahead of national security. Given that the doctor is a U.S. soldier, this is misguided.

Interrogations are limited to four hours and usually last two. And they are interrupted for prayers. A detainee can end an interrogation at any time. Interrogations are not video- or audio-recorded, perhaps to preserve detainee privacy. Interrogators are forbidden to threaten a detainee in any way. His food, water and Koran can never be taken away. All the military can do is confiscate his toothbrush and other "comfort items."

The only tool left to interrogators is bribery. Of course, this means little to them – they didn't use toothbrushes in Afghanistan. One interrogator actually bakes cookies for detainees, while another serves them Subway or McDonald's sandwiches. Both are available on base. (Filet O' Fish is an al-Qaeda favorite.) No one seems to notice the "treat" offered to al-Qaeda is non-*halal*.

A multi-cell al-Qaeda network has emerged in the camp, Harris admitted to me. Military intelligence can't yet identify its leaders, but Harris notes that they have cells for monitoring the movements and identities of guards and doctors, as well as cells dedicated to training, recruiting, planning, for making weapons, and so on.

And they can make weapons from almost anything. Guards have been attacked with springs taken from inside sink faucets, broken fluorescent light bulbs and fan blades. "These folks are MacGyvers," Harris said.

Accidentally or not, U.S. lawyers are helping al-Qaeda prisoners continue to plot. Some 1,000 lawyers represent 440 prisoners. That translates to almost 2.3 lawyers per detainee, all working *pro bono*, and some of them toil away in the nation's largest law firms. These attorneys sent more than 18,500 letters into Gitmo to their clients in the past

year. Detainees use the envelopes sent to them by their attorneys to pass messages. Guards are not allowed to look inside these envelopes because of “attorney-client privilege,” even if they know the document inside is an Arabic-language note written by a prisoner and not a legal letter.

When I asked an intelligence officer if the lawyers were asked if they could simply staple their letters shut instead of using envelopes, he said such proposals were rebuffed. They could use envelopes to contact their criminal clients in the United States; they couldn’t see why their clients at Gitmo deserved anything less.

There is little doubt of the purpose of such note-passing and weapons-making. The military recorded 3,232 incidents of detainee misconduct between July 2005 and August 2006 – an average of 8.8 incidents per day. These include 432 bodily fluid assaults (urine, feces, or a mixture of the two), 227 physical assaults, 99 food or water assaults, and 90 other physical assaults, such as stabbings.

One detainee slashed a doctor who was trying to save his life; now doctors must wear body armor to treat their patients.

The “Manchester Document,” an al-Qaeda training manual discovered in the United Kingdom in 2000, spells out what “the brothers” should do if imprisoned by a Western government. The short version: lie about torture and mistreatment, constantly assert their innocence, and use every legal loophole to tie the enemy (us) in knots. Does anyone doubt al-Qaeda has followed its playbook?

Last September, Gitmo received its first new arrivals in two years, when Sept. 11 architect Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and 13 other “high-value” detainees were transferred from CIA custody to the Department of Defense. This may be the start of a trend. The Bush administration seems to be determined to give all al-Qaeda terrorists a shot at legal tribunals.

Are we concerned that some detainees may be innocent? You can rest easy. Most were captured on the battlefield, gun in hand. They are innocent only in the legal sense that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. A small warehouse in Gitmo houses what intel types call “pocket litter,” a term that includes everything a detainee had in his hands or on his person at the moment of capture. One admitted al-Qaeda financier who said he moved some \$168 million for the terror network over the years was captured with more than \$500,000 in cash, in various currencies. Another was captured with bin Laden’s personal satellite phone. Many were captured with notebooks containing bomb-



Alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, seen here after his capture during a Pakistan raid in 2003, was transferred from CIA custody to Guantanamo last fall with 13 other “high-value” detainees. Together, they were the first new arrivals at Gitmo in two years. AP

making recipes. And so on. Twenty detainees have direct personal knowledge of the 9/11 attacks, and nearly all praise the atrocity. At least 20 detainees released from Gitmo have been killed or recaptured fighting allied forces.

Do you suspect that the information that the detainee passes is stale? Think again.

Abu Musab Ubaydah al Masri, an al-Qaeda chief in the Kunar province of Afghanistan, was captured Nov. 6, 2005, in Pakistan, based on information obtained from three Saudi detainees in Gitmo, Harris said. They even guided a police sketch artist in drawing his face.

Much has been written about the elaborate and unprecedented appeals process. Detainees have their cases reviewed once a year and are granted rights roughly equivalent to criminals held in domestic prisons. In what previous war were captured enemy combatants eligible for review before the war ended, I asked a military legal adviser. None, he said.

There is no solitary confinement at Gitmo. Detainees can and do talk freely to each other in other cells, even in the maximum-security camp. When I asked a guard about it, his response was priceless and typical: “We can’t stop people from talking. It is inhumane.”

As the terrorists chatted freely around us, I looked at the young MP and thought, “Even if they are plotting your death?” 🌿

Richard Miniter is the best-selling author of “Losing bin Laden” and “Shadow War,” adjunct fellow at the Hudson Institute, and the Washington editor of Pajamas Media. www.richardminiter.com

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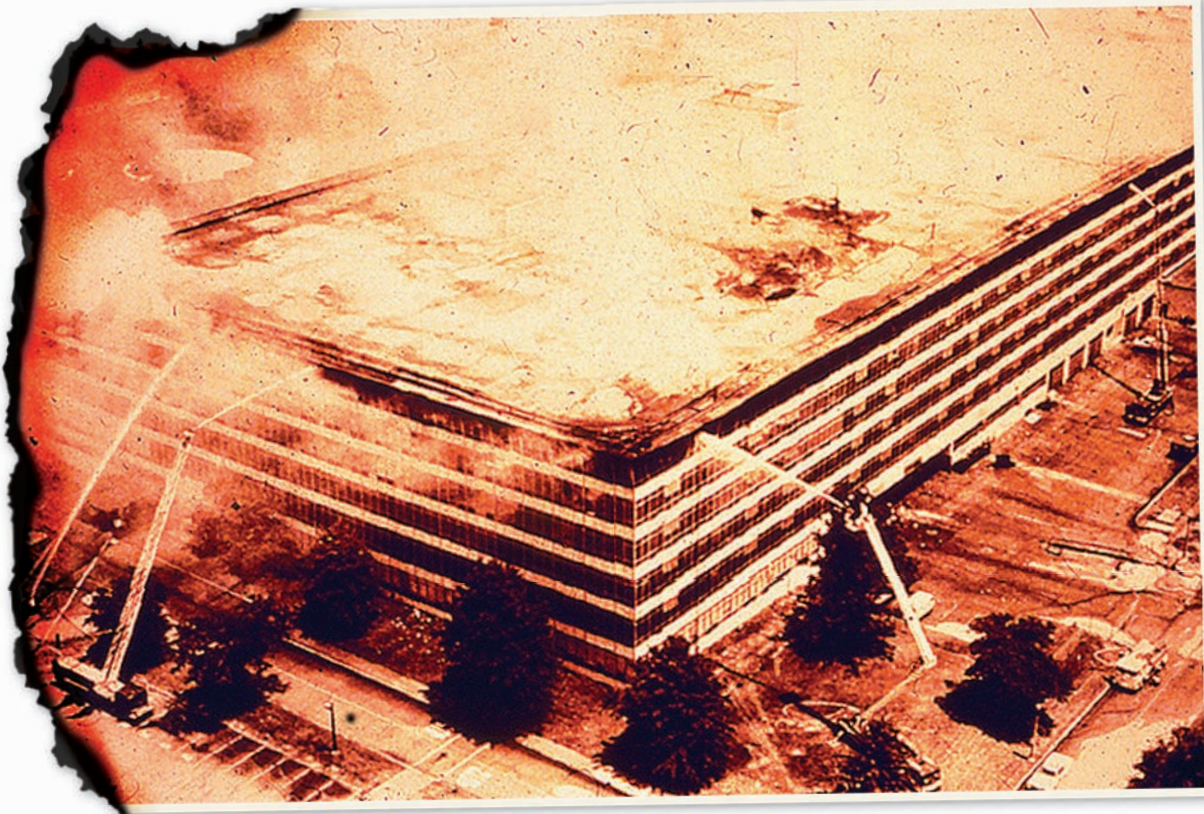
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The Blaze of '73

Decades ago, a raging fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis wiped out the military histories of nearly 18 million Americans.

BY DAN ALLSUP

At 12:16 a.m. on July 12, 1973, an alarm sounded at a suburban St. Louis firehouse. The National Personnel Records Center, home to 38 million sensitive U.S. military records, was burning.

The first firetrucks arrived on the scene within minutes, but the blaze on the top floor of the six-story government building was already raging out of control. Forty-two fire districts eventually responded and fought the fire for nearly four days before containing it. No lives were lost.

What remained of the 200,000-square-foot facility was a sodden, smoldering swamp of burnt and waterlogged papers. An estimated 16 million to 18 million personnel files – military life histories of those who'd served, including enlistment and discharge papers, training forms and performance reports – were lost forever.

As Walter Stender and Evans Walker pointed out in their definitive 1974 article in *The American*

Archivist, this wasn't the first time that fire ravaged important U.S. historical records. A fire at the War Department in 1800 destroyed irreplaceable historical records of the nation's first decade. In 1836, a blaze at the U.S. Patent Office destroyed models and blueprints of inventions that formed the technological backbone of the nation. Invaluable art and other relics were lost in an 1851 fire in the U.S. Capitol. In 1890, the entire Decennial Census was lost in a fire at the Census Bureau.

Last May, when a laptop computer containing personal information about more than 26.5 million veterans and their families was stolen from a VA employee's home, officials feared that the Social Security numbers of millions would fall into the hands of identity thieves. The computer was later recovered, and authorities believed the sensitive information had not been accessed. But the event raised national concern over the security of

Up in smoke

The 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis destroyed about 80 percent of the records for Army personnel discharged between Nov. 1, 1912, and Jan. 1, 1960. Also destroyed were about 75 percent of the records for Army Air Force and Air Force personnel, with surnames from "Hubbard" through "Z," discharged between Sept. 25, 1947, and Jan. 1, 1964.

Officials have never determined what exactly was lost in the fire because there are no indices to the blocks of records involved. They were simply filed in alphabetical order for the following groups:

- World War I (Army) – Sept. 7, 1939, to Nov. 1, 1912
- World War II (Army) – Dec. 31, 1946, to Sept. 8, 1939
- Post-World War II (Army) – Dec. 31, 1959, to Jan. 1, 1947
- Post-World War II (Air Force) – Dec. 31, 1963, to Sept. 25, 1947

government-controlled personal records and the potential for disaster if they should be destroyed or mishandled.

Placing Blame. Arguably, no tragedy in the history of U.S. records management devastated more people than the St. Louis National Personnel Records Center fire of 1973. Conspiracy theories abound concerning the fire's origin. Some believe it was a terrorist attack by an anti-government organization (coincidentally, the fire took place the same week the military draft ended). Others believe the federal government itself started the fire to destroy unwanted and sensitive files, or to erase certain World War II records. Although millions of dollars have been spent reconstructing the damaged records, some go so far as to say the government intentionally set the blaze to reduce budget costs by destroying an entire floor of a federal building.

Few take such accusations seriously, but more than three decades later, the exact cause of the NPRC fire is still a mystery. FBI investigators looked for evidence of arson, but they never determined the fire's time or point of origin. They did find cigarette butts in trash cans on the sixth floor, but agents were not convinced that cigarette embers started the conflagration. A 1975 investigation indicated that the NPRC's top floor had insufficient ventilation and that air pressure in the overcrowded space may have caused the dry records to catch fire.

Although no one claims to understand exactly how the fire started, there is little argument today that it could have been prevented.

In 1951, the Department of Defense asked a St. Louis firm to design a building that would become the National Personnel Records Center on a 70-acre site near the city. Teams from the firm visited several records centers around the country to study their operations. One visit was to a U.S. Navy-operated facility at Garden City, N.Y., and another to a records center in Alexandria, Va., operated by DoD.

The two facilities offered opposing fire-safety plans. The Navy center was fully equipped with sprinklers for fire safety, and officials there strongly urged the St. Louis architects to include them in their facility. Senior DoD officials disagreed. More concerned about water damage than fire, they advised against installing a sprinkler system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the St. Louis facility in 1956, at a cost of \$12.5 million – more than \$86 million in today's dollars. DoD won the fire-safety argument. The building not only lacked a sprinkler system, but most of its more than 1 million square feet were designed like an open warehouse, with huge areas uninterrupted by firewalls or compartments. By 1973, wiser officials had prevailed and plans were in the works to install a sprinkler system. By then, it was too late.

More records may have been damaged by water than by the fire itself. Firefighters pumped millions of gallons of water into the building, and every one of the center's six floors had several inches of standing water on the floor. Carton after cardboard carton full of paper records melded into a mushy mess. DoD's fear of water damage was realized in a manner no one could have predicted.

The same year the NPRC building was completed, the National Archives and Records Service – NPRC's parent organization – decided that future facilities under its control would be equipped with sprinklers, smoke-detection systems and adequate firewalls. It was a decision made 17 years before the 1973 fire, but still too late to protect the sensitive records stored at the NPRC.

Could It Happen Again? Today, the National Personnel Records Center is still one of the National Archives and Records Administration's largest operations. It remains the central repository of U.S. military and civil-service personnel records. Is a repeat of the fiery 1973 disaster possible? Ronald L. Hindman, director of the



Efforts to reconstruct military records damaged in the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis continue today. Dan Allsup

NPRC, makes no guarantees. But current safeguards make a recurrence highly unlikely, he said.

“An efficient sprinkler system is installed, food and drinks are prohibited in the storage area, smoking within the facility by employees is cause for immediate dismissal, and firewalls are now placed strategically throughout the building,” Hindman said.

Scott Levins, the center’s assistant director, described other improvements. “Current facility standards require a fire-suppression system designed to limit the loss due to a single fire incident to fewer than 300 cubic feet of records.” And the safeguards work. “Within the past 10 years, there have been two separate fires in a Washington, D.C., records center. In each instance, the fire-suppression systems confined the damage to far fewer than 300 cubic feet.”

Efforts to recover as many records as possible began within days after the 1973 NPRC fire was finally extinguished. When 90,000 cubic feet of soggy records were finally removed from the building, officials began what may be the largest records-drying operation in history.

Some records went through a freeze-drying process, but McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corp. in St. Louis took the project high-tech when officials offered the use of their vacuum-drying facility, developed as part of the space program. Designed

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Of the 1 million requests the National Personnel Records Center receives annually, many are for files destroyed in the '73 fire. Thirty full-time employees handle the requests.
Dan Allsup

to simulate conditions in outer space for astronauts, the chamber-drying method allowed treated records to be safely opened page by page. The experiment was so successful that NASA pitched in to help by offering the use of its own vacuum chamber in Sandusky, Ohio.

Reconstruction efforts continue today. "The fire was in 1973, but we're still responding today," said William G. Seibert, NPRC's chief archivist. "We know what records we've recovered, but unfortunately, we still don't really know what we lost."

It might still be possible for veterans to obtain their records even if they were damaged in the fire, Levins said.

"The center receives more than 1 million requests each year for military records, and many of these are requests to reconstruct records that were lost in the 1973 fire," he said. "The number is dwindling as the years go by, but we still receive enough requests to staff 30 full-time employees. Reconstruction efforts will go on indefinitely."

An untold number of veterans may never have their records restored. Carl Yurek, 86, is one of the lucky few whose records were recovered and partially salvaged. A native of Wyoming, Pa., Yurek is a World War II Army veteran who served in the European theater. He was discharged in 1945 after suffering severe injuries in a vehicle accident.

"I just decided I wanted to review my time in the service," Yurek said, "so I wrote and asked for my records. I got a letter back telling me they had been burnt in the fire, but they would give me what they could. It only took a few months. Even

though some of the records were still missing, there was enough there for me to see and remember what I did in the war. I saw records of me being in countries I had forgotten. They told me things that I didn't even know about myself. It made me feel real good to remember how I had served my country."

A switch to electronic records storage began in 1994, and since 2003 each military service branch has maintained its own records electronically. The NPRC still maintains Coast Guard personnel files among its 57 million paper records.

"We simply can't afford to scan all of our documents because it would cost hundreds of millions of dollars," said William Seibert, the NPRC's archivist. "Because the records are a combination of onionskin, carbon paper and multifold documents that would have to be hand-fed into a scanner, the task would be unmanageable."

And at a time when technology can put millions of sensitive files into a computer hard drive smaller than a briefcase and just as transportable, the challenge of personal data security has only evolved into new dimensions over the past 33 years. New fire-safety measures may have greatly reduced the risk of another fire like the blaze of '73, but the confusion that still smolders today over lost and damaged records amplifies the value of official government data and what it might mean to lose it. 🌿

Dan Allsup is a St. Louis-area freelance writer.

What's in store today

Records now stored at the National Personnel Records Center cover military personnel discharged on or after these dates:

- Air Force officers and enlisted, Sept. 25, 1947
- Army officers, July 1, 1917
- Army enlisted, Nov. 1, 1912
- Navy officers, Jan. 1, 1903
- Navy enlisted, Jan. 1, 1886
- Marine Corps officers and enlisted, Jan. 1, 1905
- Coast Guard officers and enlisted, Jan. 1, 1898

Military personnel records for individuals separated before these dates are on file at the **National Archives and Records Administration, Old Military and Civil Records Branch (NWCTB), Washington, DC 20408**. For more information, e-mail requests to inquire@arch2.nara.gov.

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs



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No pandemic event in the past century compares to the Spanish flu of 1918. The challenge today is to keep history from repeating.

EPIDEMIC

BY THOMAS O'BRIEN

By most accounts, the epidemic began at Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kan., on March 11, 1918. Pvt. Albert Gitchell reported to the camp infirmary just before breakfast. He complained of fever, sore throat and headache. He was soon followed by Cpl. Lee W. Drake, who had similar symptoms. By noon, more than 100 soldiers were in the hospital. By week's end, 500.

The origins of their particular influenza variant are not precisely known. It is thought to have originated in China in a rare genetic shift of the influenza virus. The shift created a virus novel to almost everyone; thus, almost no one was immune. The first wave went largely unnoticed. Influenza spreading among men living in close military quarters did not particularly alarm public-health officials as the nation grappled with its intensifying role in World War I. As a result, there was virtually no response or acknowledgment to the camp outbreaks.

The moniker "Spanish flu" arose for two reasons: One, while the disease did

not begin in Spain, the country fell victim to one of the earliest and deadliest outbreaks in Europe. And two, since Spain was not a combatant in the war, there was no news censorship, and so the story got out.

At the time, U.S. involvement in the fight against Germany was making a major difference overseas. In March 1918, 84,000 American doughboys set out for Europe; another 118,000 followed the next month. In June, another 279,000 sailed, followed by 300,000 in July and 286,000 in August. In the final six months of the war, 1.5 million soldiers landed in Europe. As they sailed across the Atlantic, they were unaware they carried with them a virus deadlier than the war itself.

By May 1918, the epidemic had consumed two continents. There was no sign of relief. Soldiers from both sides in the war died from it. Great Britain reported 31,000 cases in June alone. Planned attacks had to be postponed due to a shortage of healthy men. Soon the "Spanish flu" extended its reach beyond the United States and Western



In a makeshift sleeping area on the drill-hall floor of the main barracks at Naval Training Center San Francisco in 1918, "sneeze screens" were erected as a precaution against the spread of influenza. U.S. Navy

PROPORTION

Europe to Russia, North Africa, India, China, Japan, the Philippines and New Zealand. By July 1918, it was officially pandemic, spread around the planet.

Then came the second wave, an even deadlier mutated strain of the virus. It arrived on U.S. shores when supply ships and troop transports returned home. In the United States and overseas alike, men mobilizing to fight the war were spreading the disease. By train and truck it spread from city to city, and by ship it spread from country to country and continent to continent.

Specters of the pandemic devastation nearly 90 years ago still haunt public-health officials. Regular as winter's chill, warnings of severe flu – including mysterious new strains like the deadly Asia-borne bird flu – are sounded each year. Fall vaccinations are offered everywhere from department stores to major medical centers. Figures vary by severity of season, but ordinary influenza hospitalizes an average of more than 200,000 Americans a year, and either the illness or complications from it kill more than 36,000 a year.

The Spanish flu of 1918 was no ordinary bug. And health officials today are acutely aware that the world is long overdue for another of its kind.

Sick at Sea. The U.S. Navy's main mission in World War I was to help strengthen the British fleet and protect Merchant Marine ships carrying oil, munitions, supplies and men from attacks by German submarines. The battleships *Utah*, *Nevada* and *Oklahoma* sailed from Hampton Roads, Va., on Aug. 30 and arrived in Bantry Bay, Ireland, on Sept. 10. Whether or not the *Utah* carried the mutated virus from the United States to Europe is unknown. However, the ship's war diary describes sanitation and health as "excellent" throughout September. No more than 15 sailors were in sick bay at a time.

Other ships were not so fortunate. In late September, the *Yacona* left New London, Conn., and got no farther than Boston; 80 of the 96 onboard were sick. When the *Pittsburgh* docked in Rio de Janeiro, 647 sailors took sick and 58 died. On Oct. 12, the Navy canceled its

"There were too many men sick so we didn't have captain inspection ... I had the chills all day and a burning headache. It was a touch of the Spanish Influenza but I pulled through without going to dispensary ... while on 8 to 12 P.M. (watch) thought I would never stand it."

From the diary of William Rumpeltes, onboard the USS *Utah*, Oct. 19, 1918

directive that men who died at sea be returned home. Sailors and soldiers were to be buried in local ports or shrouded in the U.S. flag and released overboard.

The illness caused one of the deadliest naval accidents of the war. A flu-ridden convoy became hopelessly lost in a gale off Northern Ireland. With operations so degraded by men stricken with the illness, orders were confused and compromised. The *Kashmir* rammed into the side of the *Oranto*, whose boilers then exploded. The death toll was 431.

The *Leviathan*, America's largest transport, arrived in Brest, France, that October. She carried roughly 12,000 men, 2,000 of whom were sick. Attempts to quarantine them were impossible because the ship's doctors and nurses also were ill. No fewer than 200 died. The *Utah* soldiered on, leaving Bantry Bay to guard the convoys on their way to France.

In an Oct. 15, 1918, diary entry, *Utah* crewman William M. Rumpeltes wrote:

"We met troop transports, and cruiser and a merchant ship and are convoying them to France (took them to Brest, France). We met them at 10:00 A.M. They had their flags at half mast as they lost several men on the over and buried them in sea ... left the other ships and went to look for another transport that was lost."

On Oct. 16, he added:

"About nine A.M. this morning we met eleven more transports and convoyed them all day towards France. They had with them about ten thousand red cross nurses and were pretty large ships. The Sick Bay is full with sick men and are using the reading room, it being the Spanish Flu."

Rumpeltes came down with the flu on Oct. 19. Four days later, he wrote: *"Still have throat ache. Went to dispensary in morning and took culture ... Nevada and Okla. are losing lives from influenza. We have about 150 sick."*

On Oct. 25: *"Some feed we had for breakfast. Grapefruit and apples. First we saw since left states. Man died this A.M. Sent him back to states. He died from 'flu.' Had a sad ceremony, but we are lucky so far besides other ships."*

Oct. 26: *"Two more men died last night. Had ceremony about 11 A.M."*

Oct. 27: *"Sunday. Another man died last night. Had services in A.M."*

Oct. 29: *"Another man died today from flu ... sick bay still full."*

Oct. 30: *"Had funeral services for dead man."*

The war soon ended, and so did the *Utah's* deadly battle against Spanish flu.

An Exercise in Fatality. Back in the United States, October 1918 would prove to be the deadliest month in the nation's history when approximately 195,000 Americans died from the Spanish flu.

Alaska imposed a maritime quarantine and

restricted travel to the interior, to no avail. Half of Nome's white population was sickened, and the native population was decimated. Of the 300 Alaska natives in the region, 176 died.

In Connecticut, the Public Health Service declared, "Influenza is prevalent throughout the eastern and southern parts of the state and it appears to be increasing." In three days, reported cases rose from 2,000 to 9,000. One week later, the number doubled, then redoubled and redoubled again. By the end of October, an estimated 180,000 people had been infected.

Infection statistics were only estimates. Most state public-health services

were so overwhelmed that they gave up trying to track and report infection rates in order to spend their time caring for the sick.

In Kentucky, a coal miner reported that "nearly every porch, every porch that I'd look at, would have a casket box sittin' on it. And men a diggin' graves just as hard as they could."

Worldwide, the Spanish flu is estimated to have caused between 20 million and 40 million deaths in less than one year, more than double the number of deaths from World War I. It infected roughly one-fourth of the United States and one-fifth of the world. About 3 percent of those who caught it died, including 675,000 Americans. According to the Navy, the attack rate of influenza among Navy personnel was close to one in four. The virus was very unusual because for one of the first times in history, young, healthy adults were generally the hardest hit.

The Odds of History. All the advances in science, public health and medicine of the past century make it hard to imagine that such an outbreak could happen again. But with the world's population more than triple what it was in 1918 – added to the ability of thousands of potentially infected people to travel around the globe in hours – the possibility of a fatal pandemic illness has far from



Military and Red Cross nurses attended to the seemingly endless flow of patients.
Corbis

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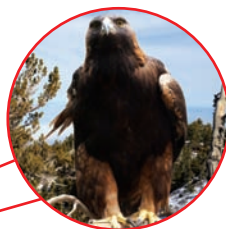
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Pandemic preparations

Last March, as the avian flu reached pandemic levels among birds and infected some humans, VA released a comprehensive new emergency plan to handle a public-health disaster should the so-called "bird flu" reach the United States. Found on the Web by searching for "VA Pandemic Influenza Plan," the document is regarded as a model for other agencies.

The document covers the subject from numerous angles, from home remedies to the protocol VA would follow to care for veterans, their families, DoD personnel and others in the event of a national pandemic flu. If such a flu does spread, VA's responsibilities could be expanded to treat patients as part of a national response plan, regardless of VA enrollment status.

VA and vaccination

88 Percentage of VA patients age 65 and older who received flu shots in the department's 2004-2005 seasonal vaccination program.

63 Percentage of U.S. adults in the same age group of the general population who were vaccinated against the flu in 2004-2005

Source: VAnguard

disappeared. History shows the world can expect approximately three pandemic events per century.

While none was so disastrous as the Spanish flu of 1918, the 1957 Asian flu claimed 70,000 U.S. lives and as many as 2 million worldwide. The 1968 Hong Kong flu took 34,000 American lives and 700,000 globally. The pandemic threats of the swine flu in 1976 and the Russian flu in 1977 were limited; the swine flu was localized, and many people had developed immunity to the Russian flu before it was able to spread.

Today, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the present strain of H5N1 avian influenza – the so-called bird flu – has the potential to become another Spanish flu. The CDC estimates that "within a three- to four-month period of the (new) pandemic's first wave, the U.S. could have up to 200 million cases with 800,000 hospitalizations and 300,000 influenza-related deaths. Age groups and geographical areas not affected by the first wave are often vulnerable during the second wave."

The bird flu, as of last November, has sickened more than 250 humans in 10 countries, killing about half. It also has killed hundreds of millions of birds and other animals in 40 countries.

So the question arises: what is being done, or can be done, to prevent the next pandemic event?

Last fall, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$200 million in contracts to pharmaceutical companies to produce enough bird-flu vaccine for 2.7 million people, adding to an existing inventory of 5.9 million doses. The department's goal is to buy enough for 20 million.

The vaccine is stored in the nation's Strategic National Stockpile should another pandemic come.

In addition to stockpiling antivirals that may be effective at treating human cases of avian influenza, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases recently awarded two contracts for production and clinical testing of investigational vaccines.

Last July, GlaxoSmithKline PLC announced that it had developed a vaccine said to be effective in 80 percent of those who receive it, and in October, Baxter International announced it had done likewise. Even more innovative, researchers at the University of Warwick in Great Britain have engineered a flu virus that converts the virulent virus into a harmless live vaccine. It works immediately and, amazingly, is said to be effective

against all influenza strains.

And in a scientific development once thought impossible, NIAID scientists have developed a vaccine that would work against the Spanish flu. The 1918 virus was reconstructed in a bio-safety lab at the CDC in Atlanta. Like their British counterparts, scientists removed genetic material from the virus, rendering it less virulent but still able to cause an immune response. The weakened virus protected laboratory mice from the Spanish flu. The goal was the same as that of the Warwick group: to use the procedure to protect against all virulent flu strains in the future, including the H5N1 avian flu – or any strain that might suddenly appear somewhere on the planet without warning – that could repeat the devastating history that was the Spanish flu of 1918. 🌿

Thomas O'Brien is a historian who lives in Orland Park, Ill.

"From the moment I got up in the morning to when I went to bed at night, I felt a constant sense of fear. We wore gauze masks. We were afraid to kiss each other, to eat with each other, to have contact of any kind. We had no family life, no church life, no community life. Fear tore people apart."

Washington, D.C., funeral-home director Bill Sardo, on the Spanish flu epidemic of October 1918

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IWO JIMA

*"Its silhouette was like a sea monster,
with the little dead volcano for the head,
and the beach area for the neck,
and all the rest of it, with its
scrubby brown cliffs for the body."*

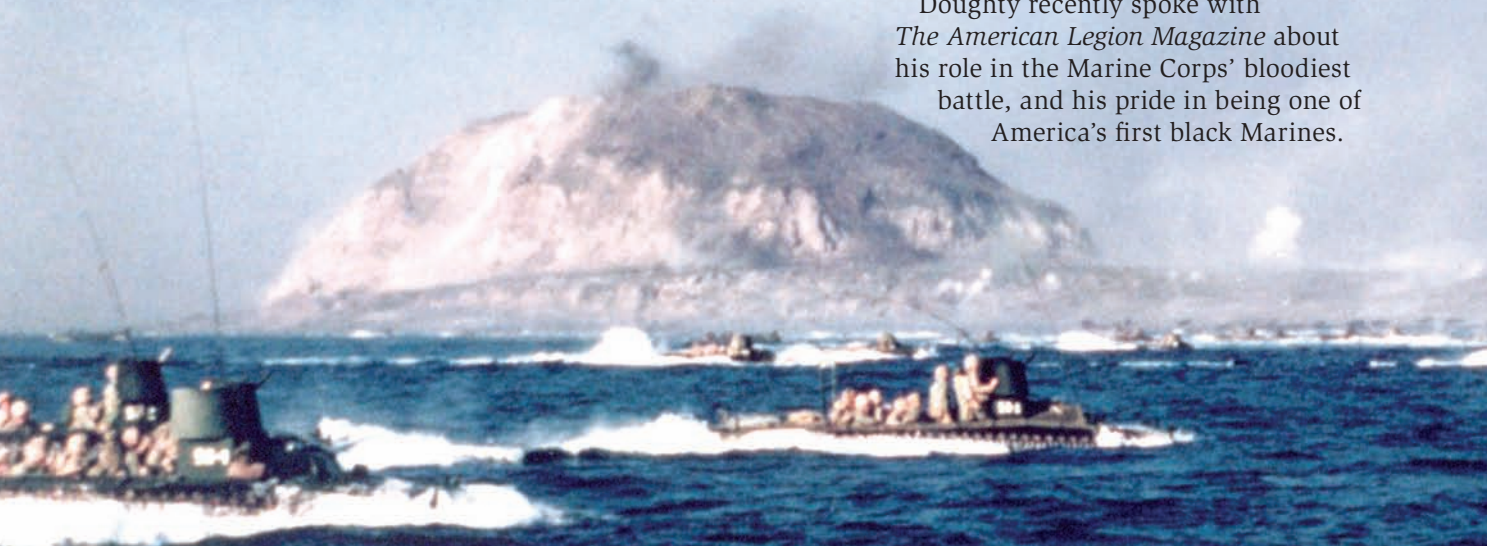
Pulitzer Prize-winning writer John P. Marquand, describing the island. Just 4.5 miles long and 2.5 miles wide, Iwo Jima took a month to capture.

When a presidential order opened the U.S. Marine Corps to blacks in 1942, among the first 100 selected from New York City was college student Gene Doughty. He and thousands of other black recruits underwent training at Montford Point, a segregated facility in the western-most part of what is now Camp Lejeune, before seeing action in the Pacific. In 1944, Doughty was assigned to the 36th Marine Depot Company as a squad leader.



"When I got to Honolulu, I was told I was going into an amphibious group that would later see some sort of combat," he recalls. "I didn't realize until 24 hours before the landing that I was going to hit Iwo Jima."

Doughty recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine* about his role in the Marine Corps' bloodiest battle, and his pride in being one of America's first black Marines.

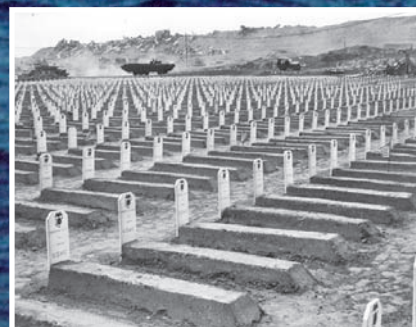


Amphibious craft head for landing beaches on Iwo Jima, Feb. 19, 1945, captured in a rare Kodachrome transparency. More than 6,800 American servicemen died in the five-week battle to take the island, along with virtually the entire 22,000-man Japanese defense force.

U.S. Navy

"Victory was never in doubt. Its cost was. What was in doubt, in all our minds, was whether there would be any of us left to dedicate our cemetery at the end, or whether the last Marine would die knocking out the last Japanese gunner."

Marine Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine, at the dedication of the 3rd Marine Division cemetery on Iwo Jima



Q: Your squad provided security for an ammo tent near a Motoyama airfield. What action did you see?

A: One of the big surprises I got was the 24th day after the landing. We were attacked by 300 Japanese who wanted to destroy the airfield or blow up the ammo dump. The only thing they succeeded in was getting to the bivouac area, where they attacked Navy and Army fighter pilots at about 2 a.m. They slashed the necks of 40 men before we got to it. All fire broke loose. Combined (with white Marines), we were able to quell that. It was one of the few times we were able to fight side by side.

Q: Describe spending your 21st birthday on Iwo Jima.

A: One Sunday morning, after the hostilities were over, my company was invited to go aboard a hospital ship where they were serving hot breakfasts. We hadn't had a hot meal in 15, 20 days. Couldn't have asked for anything more. When we came back, to my good fortune, we found that the Seabees had been able to install pipeline tapping the resources of the volcano, and we took hot sulfur showers. I had completely forgotten my birthday, believe it or not.

Q: As one of the first black Marine recruits, how were you treated during boot camp?

A: There were no black drill instructors, only white. I have to give them credit. They were told, "Train as though you were at Parris Island." Granted, one or two had deep grudges. It was in their blood. They would forget themselves. But they never called us by the "n" word. We had to remind ourselves we were still on trial. But after Saipan, they said we were Marines, period.

Q: Do you believe you would have survived a U.S. invasion of Japan?

A: I don't think so, no. When I got to Japan, we went into a warehouse at Sasebo Naval Base, and there, lined up, were hundreds of one-man submarines, one way. And you know who they had to handle those? Fourteen- and 15-year-olds. That scared the hell out of me.

Q: How are Montford Point graduates regarded by today's black Marines?

A: They're very gracious. A World War II Marine is very special to them. We're considered pioneers, the "chosen few."

Interview: Matt Grills



Getty Images

"The Americans will surely invade this Iwo Jima ... do not look for my return."

Japanese Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, in a letter to his wife six months before U.S. forces invaded Iwo Jima. Accounts suggest Kuribayashi committed suicide in his cave near Kitano Point on March 23, 1945, the 33rd day of the battle.

"When this photo appeared on the front page of all our newspapers, it created an immediate sensation, something like a Beatlemania.

"Three of those boys died on Iwo Jima. Three, including my dad, made it back to the Oval Office. Harry Truman said, 'Boys, you fought for a mountain out there in the Pacific. Now I want you to fight for a mountain of cash right here in the United States.'

"In Boston, 200,000 people stood on the street corners in a sleet storm just to get a glimpse of the boys as they drove by in a Jeep. In Houston, police had to barricade the city. Washington Park Police estimated that 150,000 people showed up to hear Martin Luther King. When my dad stood at the Lincoln Memorial, 350,000 people showed up.

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— James Bradley, son of John Bradley, at the International Conference on WWII



[RESEARCH]

Researchers seek out Vietnam War amputees

Approximately 6,000 veterans of the Vietnam War came home with missing limbs. Those who suffered traumatic wartime amputations were often simply discharged into the care of their families and VA, with little in the way of DoD follow-up. Today, as hundreds of injured U.S. troops are returning from Iraq and

Afghanistan facing similar challenges, researchers want to find those Vietnam War amputees to learn from their experiences.

The Indiana-Ohio Center for Traumatic Amputation Rehabilitation Research recently launched a study



Rubberball

into the life experiences – in terms of their health care, rehabilitation, psychology and sociology – of Vietnam War amputees. They plan to use the information to improve care of veterans with traumatic amputations from wars past, present and future. The study is funded by a DoD grant.

The program will establish the first database of Vietnam War veterans who suffered traumatic amputations. Researchers are asking for those veterans to register by filling out an online questionnaire or obtaining a hard-copy version through the mail. Participants will be contacted later with questions about their experiences since coming home. Participant privacy will be strongly protected.

For more information

www.vietnamwaramputee.org

robbinsc@iupui.edu

(317) 274-4573

To obtain a hard-copy questionnaire, write:

Chris Robbins, Project Coordinator

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Indiana University

1140 W. Michigan St.

Coleman Hall CF 124

Indianapolis, IN 46202

[ACTIVE DUTY]

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

Researcher finds that military enlistees are, in fact, more educated than ordinary Americans.

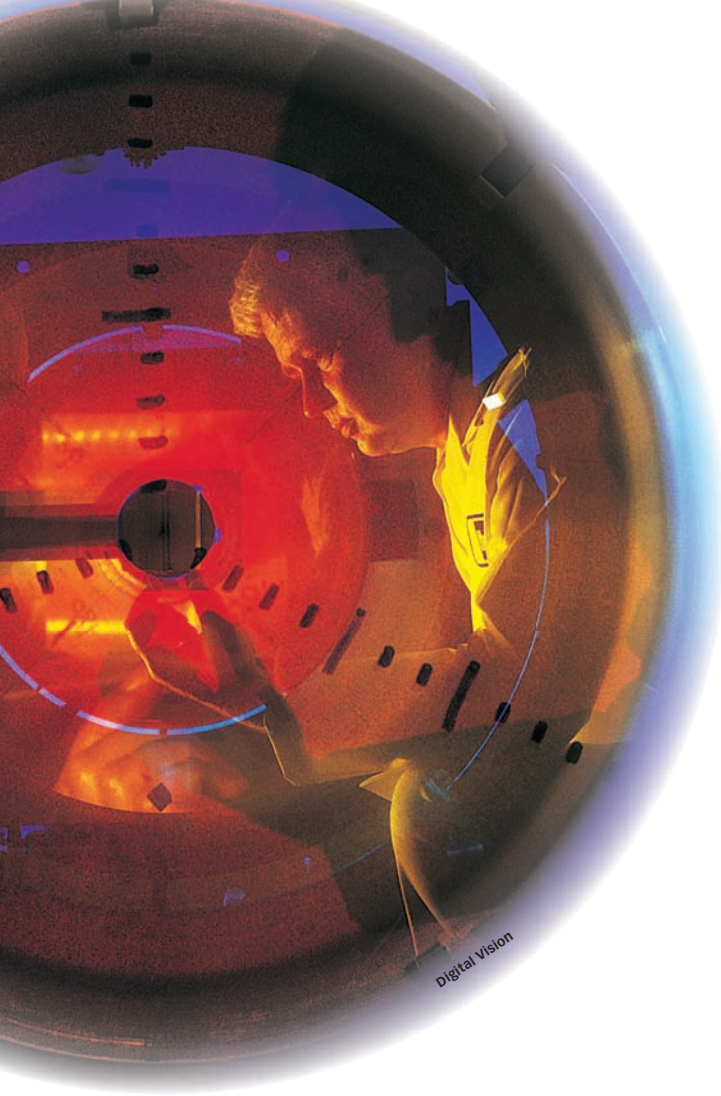
BY TIM KANE

As the old saying goes, it's hard to fathom why anyone would jump out of a perfectly good airplane. So it must be doubly hard to imagine why an intelligent young American would actually choose to fight during wartime. But a review of recent enlistee data shows that wartime volunteers are better educated and slightly wealthier than their civilian peers. It really is true: America's best and brightest are signing up for duty.

Yet too many people, often with no military background, characterize military service as a burden foisted on the less fortunate and less intelligent. These sentiments are usually meant in a sympathetic way, as if the recruits have no other options, but they often come across as patronizing. One example is a front-page story in the Nov. 4, 2005, *Washington Post* that said, "(T)he military is leaning heavily for recruits on economically depressed, rural areas where youths' need for jobs may outweigh the risks of going to war." The article was based on flawed analysis and later "corrected" with an ombudsman's published review, but the media echo chamber never noticed.

The stupid-victim-soldier stereotype also got a boost in 2004 by what turned out to be the highest-grossing documentary ever made, Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11":

"Where would (the military) find the new recruits? They would find them all across America in the places that had been destroyed by the economy. Places where one of the only jobs available was to join the Army.



"They (the two Marine recruiters) decided not to go to the wealthier Genesee Valley Mall in the suburbs. They have a hard time recruiting young people there."

Moore's film paints military recruiters as conniving and young potential enlistees as dupes. Some in Congress picked up on this drumbeat and demanded that a draft be reinstated so the burden of war would be shared equally across all economic classes. But why would the military need a draft if a volunteer force is already filling the ranks and is representative of the people?

Last year, I published a technical demographic study that looked at data on every enlistee of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. I wanted to see if recruit "quality" in terms of income and education changed after the 9/11 attacks. The study compared all enlistees in 1999 to all in 2003, and the results were a shock. The percentage of volunteers coming from America's richest neighborhoods was on par with the population in 1999 and rose dramatically after the terrorist attacks. In short, for every two recruits from the poorest

quintile of neighborhoods, there are three recruits from the richest quintile.

I updated that study with another major report on Oct. 27, 2006, that updates the study with data on all recruits in 2004 and 2005. Amazingly, the trend toward wealthier recruits increased. During a time of war, when an Army enlistee signs up knowing that the mission is combat instead of college, the call of duty is working best in the middle and upper-class neighborhoods.

It gets better. The average American enlistee is more educated – not less – than the average civilian, especially young civilians. Did you know that the average reading level of new soldiers is roughly a full grade level higher than civilian peers? It's also true that the high-school graduation rate of enlistees was 97 percent in 2003, 2004 and 2005. The civilian graduation rate is 17 percentage points lower. The Marine Corps will not even accept a recruit without a high-school diploma.

Educational achievement is the characteristic most commonly cited as a sign of lower military standards driven by the Iraq war. Yes, the Army did allow for a tiny percentage of what are known as Category IV recruits to enlist. But Cat IVs are not bad soldiers, or else they wouldn't be allowed in at all. There are lower categories, in fact, and the real story is that the military of today is an elite force that screens out the lowest aptitude applicants – nearly 25 percent of the population. What hasn't been reported is that in recent years the percentage of Category I recruits is increasing.

The modern military is built more on brains, less on brawn. Active-duty troops will be the first to tell you that unless they pursue continuing education, their chances of promotion are slim. And that's the point. The transformation to an all-volunteer force has been designed around the concept of a more lethal, more nimble, less vulnerable soldier. Fatality rates may well be so low in Iraq and Afghanistan because so much is invested into the education and training of each recruit.

The U.S. military has always prided itself on the independent judgment and intelligence of its fighting force, ever since George Washington's Continental Army. Unlike the hierarchies of other militaries, U.S. forces were and are empowered to think for themselves. That tradition continues today, more than ever.

Tim Kane, Ph.D., is director of the Center for International Trade and Economics at The Heritage Foundation. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

[HONOR]

"As long as we have Marines like Cpl. Dunham, America will never fear for her liberty."

President George W. Bush, Nov. 10, 2006, Quantico, Va.



U.S. Marines

Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham of Scio, N.Y., will be awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions near the Iraq-Syria border in 2004. Dunham was leading a patrol that intercepted a convoy fleeing a nearby attack on another Marine unit when an enemy from one of the stopped cars resisted. Dunham engaged him in hand-to-hand combat. Then, when the enemy dropped a live grenade, Dunham used his own body to shield his fellow Marines from the blast. He died eight days later at Bethesda.

Dunham is the second American to receive the Medal of Honor for service in Iraq. Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith was given the nation's highest military honor for helping soldiers to safety and killing at least 50 enemies during the 2003 battle for Baghdad International Airport.

[VERBATIM]

"Just as the Soviet Union was wiped out and today does not exist, so will the Zionist regime soon be wiped out."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, opening an international conference in Tehran that questioned whether the Holocaust ever happened

"The Holocaust is the device used as the pillar of Zionist imperialism, Zionist aggression, Zionist terror and Zionist murder."

David Duke, former Ku Klux Klan leader and former Louisiana state representative, telling the conference that gas chambers were not used to kill Jews and that the Holocaust is a "weapon" used to deny rights to Palestinians and "cover up the crimes of Israel"

"In the 20th century, someone said, 'I will liquidate a nation of people.' And somehow the whole world heard it, may have understood it, but didn't do much to prevent it. Now we have the president of Iran speaking on every international platform that the purpose of his efforts is to ultimately wipe Israel off the map ... The whole world has to stop it."

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

"They're absolutely committed to the 50-, 100-year plan. One of my concerns is how to maintain the American will, the public will, over that duration."

Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark O. Schissler, a top Pentagon strategist, on a "generational war" with Islamic extremists

"When [America] appears to abandon its own ideals and objectives, its friends abroad are naturally troubled and confused."

Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a December farewell speech

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E.B., Lemon Grove, CA

Dear Veteran,

An interactive approach is helping Indianapolis schoolchildren learn about serving America. Local teachers work with volunteers from the Indianapolis Veterans Day Council to teach students about military service. In turn, students make cards for and write



Image100

letters to veterans recuperating at Roudebush VA Medical Center. Whether poignant or priceless, all their messages reflect the sincere respect and appreciation these young students have for those who served.



THANK YOU for all the things you've sacrificed for the country, for our freedom, and from your personal life, if any. I wish I could take the hurt that you have faced, both emotionally and physically, and restore all that you had before you went off to war. I know nothing can ever restore the hurt that you feel, but I hope this letter comforts and warms your soul. I hope you have a wonderful Veteran's Day and no longer feel any hurt or pain from your sacrifices.

— Angel Dick

THANK YOU FOR SERVING in the Army and for giving me more freedom-like things. If it wasn't for you, we probably would be ruled by the British Army. Thank you again.

— Dominic Towns

I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY APPRECIATION for helping our country. I know how hard it is for you to separate from your family and friends that you love.

You make our country the best. Thanks to you, there is freedom in this country. You are pride and honor. I have no words to thank you enough for all you have done for us. You make a change, you have courage that we citizens don't have, or haven't found yet. You are an inspiration for young people like me.

— Itandehui Connie Juarez

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW

how much my family and I wanted to thank you and everyone out there and how much we appreciate what you have done for our country. We always watch the news to see how you guys are doing. My dad is even looking for Osama Bin Ladin. About four months ago, he thought he saw him at a Costco gas station. He said it looked exactly like him, but he shaved his beard off. So, my mom, dad, sister, dog and I all went to the same gas station but he was gone. My mom thought he was crazy and asked him, "What would he be doing in Indy?" My dad said it was for cover up.

Well, I hope you and your friends get well soon and I hope that when you get home you are very happy.

— Your Friend, Katie



I'M WRITING TO SAY THANK YOU.

You are a role model to me. I'm showing my appreciation to you for Veteran's Day. I have always thought about the military. I like to play sports now. I can't wait until I have a chance to join the military. I am an American, too. I'd appreciate it if you write back. My teacher is offering extra credit if you write back. I could use the extra credit, so please write back.

— Steven Hall

Contact the Indianapolis Veterans Day Council to learn more about starting a letter-writing program.

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[PARTNERS]

'Reconnect America'

The Military Channel, Military.com team up to promote troop-support programs.

Two of The American Legion's partners in troop support and veterans advocacy, the Military Channel and Military.com, have joined forces to promote charitable programs that help servicemembers and veterans alike. The "Reconnect America" campaign will build awareness of efforts like Operation Gratitude, the Armed Services YMCA, the Fisher House, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors and others. The cable television network and the popular Web site will spotlight different military-focused charities under the same banner every month.

Web-site visitors can make online donations, send e-cards to U.S. servicemembers, post their thoughts on message boards, watch video postings from the frontline and access a "military-buddy" locator database.



"With the number of service casualties in the Iraq war and thousands stationed around the world, we are honored to align our efforts with Military.com in creating a one-stop resource for tens of millions of viewers and users to find qualified, deserving and vital military-focused charities," said Jane Root, Military Channel

executive vice president and general manager.

"We are proud to be part of this national effort to reconnect America to its military community," said Christopher Michel, chairman and founder of Military.com. "This effort will enable millions of Americans to directly support our men and women in uniform and keeps with our mission of connecting servicemembers, veterans and their families to all the benefits of service."

[INCENTIVES]

National Commander Paul A. Morin offers the following awards for superior membership recruiting:

'Back to Basics' pin

Awarded to any member of The American Legion family who signs up five new members and renews 10 expired members. One per person.

'Morin's Minutemen' Cap

Awarded to district, department and national vice commanders who exceed 100 percent in membership without any losses in posts.

100-Percent Plus Pins

Awarded to posts, districts and departments that reach 100 percent or more by March 15.

Reverse Bowl

Awarded to two posts from each region, one district per region, and the department with the highest membership above 100 percent by Dec. 31.

Commission on the Future of America's Veterans

www.future4vets.org

- : The Veterans Coalition is a nonprofit organization founded last year by the
- : The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American
- : Veterans, AMVETS and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The coalition
- : appointed the Commission on the Future of America's Veterans, which is
- : conducting a monumental study that will give veterans a strong, cohesive
- : voice in the 2008 election. Visit the commission's Web site to learn more
- : about the study and how you can get involved.

[AMERICAN LEGION RACING]

Freedom Car hooks up with Fan1st.com

Team Johnson Motorsports and The American Legion-supported No. 76 Freedom Car recently added a new associate sponsor, Fan1st.com, which creates new revenue opportunities for the NASCAR Busch Series racing team. Fan1st.com, a sponsor in the Busch Series, is a Web site devoted to fans of auto racing.

Half the purchase price of a membership to Fan1st.com through the link at www.legionracing.org will go to support the 76 Freedom Car. The Freedom Car receives



no direct funding from The American Legion and is supported entirely by merchandise sales. Members of

Fan1st.com receive sponsor cards, special invitations to team events, voting rights on team decisions, and their names on the 76 Freedom Car and the 32 Fan1st.com car in the 2007 NASCAR Busch Series. Members may also participate in a fantasy racing league with a chance to become "owner for a day" and win a trip to Daytona, Fla., for the first race in 2008.

Black Listed Cancer Treatment Could Save Your Life

Baltimore, MD— As unbelievable as it seems the key to stopping many cancers has been around for over 30 years. Yet it has been banned. Blocked. And kept out of your medicine cabinet by the very agency designed to protect your health.

In 1966, the senior oncologist at a prominent New York hospital rocked the medical world when he developed a serum that **"shrank cancer tumors in 45 minutes!"** 90 minutes later they were gone... Headlines hit every major paper around the world. Scientists and researchers applauded. Time and time again this life saving treatment worked miracles, but those with a vested interest ignored the research and hope he brought and shut him down..

You read that right. He was not only shut down—but also forced out of the country where others benefited from his discovery. That was over 39 years ago. How many other treatments have they been allowed to hide? Just as in the case of Dr. Burton's miracle serum these too go unmentioned.

Two-Nutrient Cancer Breakthrough...

Decades ago, European research scientist Dr. Johanna Budwig, a six-time Nobel Award nominee, discovered a totally natural formula that not only protects against the development of cancer, but people all over the world who have been diagnosed with incurable cancer and sent home to die have actually benefited from her research—and now lead normal lives.

After 30 years of study, Dr. Budwig discovered that the blood of seriously ill cancer patients was deficient in certain substances and nutrients. Yet, healthy blood always contained these ingredients. It was the lack of these nutrients that allowed cancer cells to grow wild and out of control.

By simply eating a combination of two natural and delicious foods (found on page 134) not only can cancer be prevented—but in case after case it was actually healed! "Symptoms of cancer, liver dysfunction, and diabetes were completely alleviated." Remarkably, what Dr. Budwig discovered was a totally natural way for eradicating cancer.

However, when she went to publish these results so that everyone could benefit—**she was blocked by manufacturers with heavy financial stakes!** For over 10 years now her methods have proved effective—yet she is denied publication—blocked by the giants who don't want you to read her words.

What's more, the world is full of expert minds like Dr. Budwig who have pursued cancer remedies and come up with remarkable natural formulas and diets that work for hundreds and thousands of patients. *How to Fight Cancer & Win* author William

Fischer has studied these methods and revealed their secrets for you—so that you or someone you love may be spared the horrors of conventional cancer treatments.

As early as 1947, Virginia Livingston, M.D., isolated a cancer-causing microbe. She noted that every cancer sample analyzed (whether human or other animal) contained it.

This microbe—a bacteria that is actually in each of us from birth to death—multiplies and promotes cancer when the immune system is weakened by disease, stress, or poor nutrition. Worst of all, the microbes secrete a special hormone protector that short-circuits our body's immune system—allowing the microbes to grow undetected for years. No wonder so many patients are riddled with cancer by the time it is detected. But there is hope even for them...

Turn to page 82 of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* for the delicious diet that can help stop the formation of cancer cells and shrink tumors.

Six-time Nobel Nominee's Two-Nutrient Cancer Breakthrough Revealed

They walked away from traditional cancer treatments...and were healed! Throughout the pages of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* you'll meet real people who were diagnosed with cancer—suffered through harsh conventional treatments—turned their backs on so called modern medicine—only to be miraculously healed by natural means! Here is just a sampling of what others have to say about the book.

"We purchased *How to Fight Cancer & Win*, and immediately my husband started following the recommended diet for his just diagnosed colon cancer. He refused the surgery that our doctors advised. Since following the regime recommended in the book he has had no problems at all, cancer-wise. If not cured, we believe the cancer has to be in remission."

—Thelma B.

"I bought *How to Fight Cancer & Win* and this has to be the greatest book I've ever read. I have had astounding results from the easy to understand knowledge found in this book. My whole life has improved drastically and I have done so much for many others. The information goes far beyond the health thinking of today."

—Hugh M.

"I can't find adequate words to describe my appreciation of your work in providing *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. You had to do an enormous amount of research to bring this vast and most important knowledge to your readers.

My doctor found two tumors on my prostate with a high P.S.A. He scheduled a time to surgically remove the prostate, but I canceled the appointment. Instead I went on the diet discussed in the book combined with another supplement. Over the months my P.S.A. has lowered until the last reading was one point two."

—Duncan M.

"In my 55 years as a Country Family Physician, I have never read a more 'down to earth,' practical resume of cancer prevention and treatments, than in this book. It needs to be studied worldwide for the prevention of cancer by all researchers who are looking for a cure."

—Edward S., M.D.

"As a cancer patient who has been battling lymphatic cancer on and off for almost three years now, I was very pleased to stumble across *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. The book was inspiring, well-written and packed with useful information for any cancer patient looking to maximize his or her chances for recovery."

—Romany S.

"I've been incorporating Dr. Budwig's natural remedy into my diet and have told others about it. Your book is very informative and has information I've never heard about before (and I've read many books on the cancer and nutrition link). Thanks for the wonderful information."

—Molly G.

Don't waste another minute. There are only a limited number of books in stock—and unless order volume is extraordinarily high we may not be able to print more life-saving copies. Claim your book today and you will be one of the lucky few who no longer have to wait for cures that get pushed "underground" by big business and money hungry giants.

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ID# P6H25

[EXCERPT]

'Mortal Angels'

By David H. Fekay

For over thirty years, I have seen plain, ordinary, hard-working people, rich and poor, young and old, who have come to the immediate help and rescue of anyone in any kind of trouble. No questions asked. No thinking of themselves. When asked their name, there was no answer. When looked for, they had disappeared as quickly as they had come to the aid of someone in need.

I became a bilateral amputee, losing both legs, in 2001. I am also a World War II vet, thus having the experience of viewing both ends of the horrifying experience of becoming an amputee.

I've learned that life is tough, but my love of God has made me able to laugh and even cry "walking" my way through tough problems. Caregivers are the most important part of the health-care system. It's time their unselfish and beautiful stories are told. Caregivers are Mortal Angels.

Adapted from "Mortal Angels" (Publish America).

www.mortalangels.thebook.com



[PARTNERS]



Mercury, in addition to supporting The American Legacy Scholarship Fund, recently challenged each American Legion post nationwide to compete for \$2,500. The contest was simple: the post claiming the highest percentage of Mercury or Lincoln vehicles purchased in a two-month span would receive \$2,500 and an additional \$2,500 for the fund. American Legion Post 64 in Socorro, N.M., came out on top. Photographed above, from Monette Ford, are, from left, Chuck Monette, Post 64 Commander William Givens and Danny Monette.

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Flag & Emblem catalog online

The 2007 American Legion Flag & Emblem Catalog is now available to view online at www.emblem.legion.org.

The catalog has easy-to-navigate instructions for ordering patriotic American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary merchandise. You can also order supplies and awards.



New items in the catalog include American Legion Riders satin jackets, polo shirts, sweatshirts, caps and patches. For those involved in membership, post operations training DVDs and membership card labels are now available. Catalog gift certificates also can be ordered.

“My Husband’s **SECRET** ... for Amazing **INTIMACY!**”

I just had to tell your readers about a recent experience I shared with my husband.

First, let me just say he is a wonderful man. **But, even after being married for all these years, it seemed he was having confidence issues lately in AND out of bed.** It was having a real negative effect on his virility and let's face it, it's not like we're newlyweds anymore.

Thankfully, we didn't have to deal with an embarrassing doctor's appointment or prescription, because everything changed a few days ago. I came home from work and something was different. He seemed more confident and excited than he'd been lately. He said he had found something that could help improve our recent bedroom issues, but it was a surprise. He had read about it online and we decided to give it a try. Well all I can say is I definitely felt sensations I'd never felt before ... in places I forgot existed. Best of all, there was clearly a difference in his erection quality and confidence. **I can honestly say it was the most incredible experience I've ever had in my entire life.**

When I asked him to reveal his secret discovery – he wouldn't. So I did some snooping. It didn't take me long to figure it out. In his top drawer was a tube of **MAXODERM Connection**. After reading the fine print and finding the website, I went online to www.maxodermct.com to discover more about this magic in a tube.

MAXODERM Connection (of which I'm having my husband buy a lifetime supply) is a lotion that is applied topically to the most “intimate areas”. **An all natural mix of herbs and other ingredients, it helps improve stimulation directly at the source – that's when amazing things start to happen. Now he experiences improved erection quality and firmness and I experience more pleasure and stimulation than ever before!** We aren't into taking pills of any kind – not even aspirin – so I was relieved to find he was using something topical without any potential systemic side effects you may experience with prescriptions. Unless you want to think of incredible intimacy as a side effect, because with **MAXODERM Connection**, you just may experience incredible intimacy time and time again!

So ... please print this letter. Anyone who wants to experience amazing intimacy has to try **MAXODERM Connection**. They need to tell their husbands about this product. Or just “accidentally” leave a tube lying around for them to “accidentally” find. I really want to thank the makers who developed **MAXODERM Connection** for making a product that's had such an impact on our intimate relationship. It's really made a difference.

T.J.

T.J.
 Phoenix, AZ



“I can honestly say
 it was the most
 incredible
 experience
 I've ever had in
 my entire life.”



*P.S., Let your readers know I'm pretty sure they can still get a **FREE MONTH SUPPLY** of **MAXODERM Connection** with their order by calling **1-800-558-7411** or by visiting their website at www.maxodermct.com, and **FOR A LIMITED TIME**, you can still get **\$200 worth of FREE GIFTS** with your order that are yours to keep – no questions asked. Oh and even better, their product is backed by a **90 Day Full Money Back Guarantee**.

From the Makers of
MAXODERM
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[RESEARCH]

Gulf War illnesses back under the microscope

National Commander Paul A. Morin applauds Congress for providing funding to the Southwestern Medical Center's Gulf War Illness research program. Headed by Dr. Robert Haley at the University of Texas Southwestern, the center will receive \$15 million, renewable for up to four years, to advance scientific knowledge on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses research.

"This research will not only impact veterans of the 1991 Gulf War but may prove beneficial for those currently serving in the Southwest Asia theater and the Middle East during the global war on terror," Morin said.

According to a recent Veterans Health Administration report, 67,743 veterans have visited doctors for illnesses categorized as "symptoms, signs and



Dr. Robert Haley

ill-defined conditions" out of the 205,097 visits made to VA medical centers.

The Institute of Medicine's September 2006 report, "Gulf War and Health, Volume 4," indicated that Gulf War veterans are reporting more severe symptoms than their non-deployed counterparts, and there is no known explanation for it.

"The purpose of research is to fill in the gaps of knowledge where there is little, yet suggestive, information," Morin explained. "Dr. Haley's research will further this knowledge about Gulf War veterans' illnesses and hopefully help improve the lives of ill Gulf War veterans, and their families who suffer beside them. We owe ill Gulf War veterans our exhaustive efforts in finding treatments for their ailments.

"What is important, and has been well-documented, is that Gulf War veterans are sicker, even if no one can conclusively declare why this is so, and The American Legion's priority on this issue is to make sure additional funding and effective treatments are made available."

[VETERANS AFFAIRS]

Waco VA medical center spared

VA Secretary Jim Nicholson announced in early December a long-awaited decision to keep the Waco, Texas, VA Medical Center open. The facility's continued role as a full-service hospital was in jeopardy after VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services draft plan came out in 2003.

Local veterans fought vigorously and publicly against the proposed closure, and community leaders supported their case. Nicholson was convinced. "I have visited Waco and seen firsthand the world-class care we provide to Texas' veterans," he said. "VA's Waco facility is invaluable to veterans not just in Waco, but throughout the region."

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Ed McMahon



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[WAR ON TERRORISM]

Time off for bad behavior

What disbarred attorney Lynne Stewart blurted after she was sentenced in federal court for her role in the foiled terrorist plot to destroy New York's Lincoln and Holland Tunnels: "You get time off for good behavior usually at the end of your prison term. I got it at the beginning. This is a great victory against an overreaching government."

What she should have gotten: 30 years in prison

What she got: 28 months, pending appeal

What her paralegal got for his involvement: 24 years

What she did: Helped her convicted terrorist client, Omar Abdel Rahman, communicate with his followers from prison

Her past clients: Members of the mafia, the Weather Underground, Black Panthers and jihadists

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Chet Carlin,
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[LIVING WELL]

Hit from every angle

VA polytrauma centers focus on today's complex new war injuries.

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

A Marine Corps reservist profiled in a 2006 *New York Times* article is typical of the men and women treated at VA's four polytrauma centers, located in Minneapolis, Tampa, Fla., Richmond, Va., and Palo Alto, Calif. A former deputy sheriff in central Florida, Cpl. Joshua Cooley sustained multiple, complex injuries in Iraq when a car bomb exploded next to his armored vehicle. He was pulled from the wreckage unconscious, a gaping wound in his head. The attack left Cooley with profound brain injury, arm and facial fractures, third-degree burns, and infections of the central nervous system. His wife, Christine, also a law-enforcement officer, has worked closely with VA team members in an effort to restore his health and independence.

New, Complex Injuries.

Polytrauma refers to severe injuries and wounds that affect many organs or systems in the body. Among troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, these wounds occur most often as the result of blasts from improvised explosive devices, land mines, rocket-propelled grenades, or mortar or artillery shells.

Fortunately, thanks to advances in body armor and military medicine, today's fighters have a better chance of surviving blast injuries – or other combat wounds – than those of past wars. But those with polytraumatic injuries are still left to cope with an array of health problems that demand every ounce of their strength, determination and courage. Among the most common medical

issues in polytrauma are brain injury, limb amputation, spinal cord injury, nerve and organ damage, burns, wounds, fractures, and vision and hearing loss. Problems such as blood clots or infections may further complicate medical care.

Once they arrive at a VA polytrauma center, veterans or active-duty service members typically stay one or two months, although inpatient or outpatient care can extend longer. Care teams include physicians, nurses, neuropsychologists, physical and occupational therapists, prosthetists, speech pathologists, audiologists, recreational therapists and social workers.

Even relatively mild brain injuries can have a major impact on patients' lives. Problems with memory, attention, problem-solving and impulse-control may drastically alter their ability to function at home and work. Family relationships may suffer. Depression and anger may increase, due either to the injury itself or patients' frustration over their disabilities. Family support is crucial, and VA research efforts across the country are constantly learning more about polytrauma and ways to treat those who will spend the rest

of their lives having experienced it.

Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.



Minds over polytrauma

■ The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, a project of VA and the Department of Defense, is conducting clinical trials of drugs to lessen the effects of traumatic brain injury, and looking at better ways to diagnose mild brain injury. The center has also formed a registry of brain-injury patients.

■ Dr. Steven Scott of the VA Polytrauma Center in Tampa, a leading authority on polytrauma, has probed the mechanisms of blast injuries and advocated new ways of evaluating patients. His colleague, Dr. Henry Lew in Palo Alto, has explored innovative rehabilitative techniques for brain-injured veterans, including robotic movement therapy and simulated driving assessments.

■ A team of VA researchers is studying "best practices" in polytrauma care and working to implement them systemwide. They are also establishing a registry of VA polytrauma patients to support research and future care.

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Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name,

telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

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ARMY

3rd QM Co 9th FA Bn, Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/15-17, Robert E. Lane, (276) 963-3935, rellane@aol.com; **4th Bn 39th Inf 9th Inf Div (Vietnam, 1966-1967)**, Albuquerque, NM, 6/28-30, Jim Haines, 240 Rainbow Drive, #14052, Livingston, TX 77399, izblackhawk439@pocketmail.com; **7th Bn 8th FA (All Btrys, All Mbrs, 1966-1996)**, Lawton, OK, 6/14-17, George Bradley, (325) 646-5066, automatic8@hotmail.com; **21st Inf Rgt & All Attached Units**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 6/12-16, Ezra P. Burke, (703) 730-9292, gimlet21st@comcast.net; **25th Inf Div Survivors**, Washington, 8/1-5, Robert L. Muzzy, (301) 424-5355, rlmuzzy@aol.com; **40th Div MP 55th MP & 558th MP (Korea)**, Kansas City, MO, 4/24-26, Dean Wiseman, (816) 318-1601, cw64083@aol.com; **80th Inf Div**, Dayton, OH, 8/15-18, Elmer Dorsten, (419) 678-2618

281st MP TRUST, Nashville, TN, 5/3-5, Jim Herring, (727) 786-2088, giacojim@aol.com; **299th Eng Bn**, Niagara Falls, NY, 6/14-16, James Nelson, (616) 527-6288; **334th/339th Comm Rec Co**, Somerset, PA, 8/3-5, Ken Halverson, (800) 638-6693, khalverson@wpia.net; **439th Eng Const Bn (1950-1956)**, Elkhorn, NE, 8/10-12, Allan L. Rolfs, (402) 289-2031; **505th Ord Heavy Maint Co Tank**, Branson, MO, 6/-8, Herbert L. Dickson, (803) 329-4326; **707th AAA Gun Bn (Fort Dix, NJ, 1950-1953)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/8-11, M.T. Sanford, (901) 357-5268, poppy21stcentury@aol.com; **L Co 21st Inf Rgt 24th Inf Div**, Nashville, TN, 4/25-29, George Vlasic, (910) 287-5618, geonanvlasic@atmc.net

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Duncan DDR 874, Valley Forge, PA, 5/2-5, David Walrod, (513) 523-8880, marj_walrod@hotmail.com; **Effingham APA 165**, Buffalo, NY, 4/24-27, Lowell E. Lupe Ellingson, (509) 627-3870, shadlupe@aol.com; **Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School (FOUWSS)**, Key West, FL, 5/10-13, Don Stone, (561) 391-0227, buddyline@uwwss.org; **Gen. W.A. Mann AP 112**, Baton Rouge, LA, 4/27-29, Walter Baker, (850) 934-1671, wbake99@aol.com; **Hazelwood DD 531**, Fort Wayne, IN, 4/27-29, Bruce E. Shilling, (574) 528-0103; **Hamlin AV 15**, Corpus Christi, TX, 6/14-16, Lawrence C. Godwin, (724) 652-4880, djmonaco@adelphia.net; **Hubbard DD 748**, Jacksonville, FL, 4/25-29, Dick Oliver, (727) 363-3059, dd748reo@cs.com; **King DD 242**, Washington, 6/21-25, Craig Bernat, (814) 322-4150, fc1ddg4@atlanticbb.net; **Lawrence DDG 4/DD 250**, Washington, 6/21-25, Craig Bernat, (814) 322-4150, fc1ddg4@atlanticbb.net; **LeJeune AP 74**, San Francisco, 4/24-28, John N. Bastion, (503) 636-0158, searabbit1@msn.com; **Little Rock CL 92/CLG/CG 4**, Buffalo, NY, 7/18-22, Woody C. Donaldson, (717)

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155th Trans Co "Arctic Kings" (Fort Story, VA, Goose AB, Labrador, or Thule AB, Greenland, 1959-1962), Darrell Myers, (304) 845-2505, darlin@ovis.net

299th MP Co (France & Africa, WWII), Edward A. Cecchini, (978) 365-7145

504th Trans Truck Co (Wonju/Sokchori, Korea, Nov 1951-Jan 1953), Larry Hochfeld, (954) 721-4833, hochfeld2@aol.com

525th FIS (Landstuhl & Bitburg, Germany, 1955-1969), Albert "Mike" Mikuski, (802) 254-6297

622nd MP Co I Corp (Korea, July 1953-Oct 1954), Don Kaiser, (715) 384-3346, pmk115@msn.com

784th Tank Bn (Camp Kilmer, NJ, 1943-1945), Claude A. Frazier, (212) 491-4516, claudieva@aol.com

786th Tank Bn, 99th Inf Div (1943-1945), Ralph Heilig, (717) 263-8647, reheilig@comcast.net

820th Med Grp (Plattsburgh AFB, NY, 1962-1967), Dennis Crisfield, (352) 796-9389, djcris@aol.com

6333rd Tech Tng Sqn APO 239 (Far East Survival Tng, Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan, 1956), Robert C. Brady, (330) 753-2389, mcjbrady@juno.com

B Co 24th S&T Bn (Augsburg, Germany, 1966-1970), Robert Hines Jr., (781) 828-8099

C Btry 1st Bn 6th Arty 1st Armd Div (Fort Hood, TX, 1963-1965), Jon Shadley, (419) 853-4702

C Btry 1st Bn 8th Arty 25th Inf Div (Cu Chi, Vietnam, 1966), Tommy Townsend, (423) 338-2912

Camp Maint 3rd Mar Div (Camp Hansen, Okinawa, 1960-1961), Jim Sitek, (414) 881-3625, louleskid1@msn.com

Co 261 (Great Lakes, IL, Oct 1954), Richard Highsmith, (478) 956-2460

D Co 1st Bn BTC (Dec 1958-Feb 1959), Augustine Garcia, (512) 392-2145

EMS Voluntary Band (Treasure Island, CA, 1951-1952), Clifford Jenkins, (479) 254-6805, countrygentleman@sbcglobal.net

Guided Msl Unit 3 or 11 (USN Avn Ord Test Stn, Chincoteague, VA, 1957-1959), Gary Richardson, (603) 359-8642, catalley@ncia.net

HQ Co 10th Eng Bn 3rd Inf Div (Kitzingen, Germany, 1960-1962), Jim Blighon, (360) 885-9399, maejeb@msn.com

LST 933 (Southwest Pacific, May 1944-Nov 1945), Dale Monson, (218) 546-6752

Nav Armed Guard (WWII), Charles A. Lloyd, (919) 570-0909, clloyd@nc.rr.com

Ranger CVA/CV 61, Clackamas, OR, George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, gmeoli@erols.com

Richard B. Anderson DD 786 (1945-1975), Ferrell M. Crowder, (850) 476-6940, freckann@bellsouth.net

San Jose Project MP (Virgin Islands, 1948-1950), Joseph A. Labrie, (978) 249-9124, jbike@verizon.net

SC-1065 (May 1944-Nov 1945), Paul K. Hansen, (712) 764-4808, hansens2@metc.net

Separation Center 1473rd ASU (Camp Shelby, MS, May 1945-Aug 1946), Peter A. Losinno, (609) 324-0084

Sub Chaser Tng Center (Pier 2, Miami, FL, Oct 1942-Jan 1944), Robert Bagnatori, 8174 Kelton Drive, Apt. 5, Gilroy, CA 95020

TAPS

Elzie B. Adams, Dept. of South Carolina. Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1995-1999 and Dept. Cmdr. 1996-1997.

Gordon Blechschmidt, Dept. of Washington. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1967-1969, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1967-1969, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1969-1971 and Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1969-1970.

Anthony E. Brogna, Dept. of New York. Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Memb. 2003-2006.

Doney R. Chrismer, Dept. of Oregon. Nat'l Resolution Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1995-2006 and Dept. Cmdr. 1998-1999.

Gerald A. Diercks, Dept. of Minnesota. Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1979-1982, Nat's Cmdr's Aide 1995-1996, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1992-1995 & 1996-1997, Nat'l Resolution Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1997-2006 and Nat'l Resolution Assignment Cmte. Chmn. 2001-2006.

Joseph M. Norby, Dept. of Washington. Nat'l Memb. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1960-1963, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1975-1976 and Dept. Cmdr. 1986-1987.

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The Bible tells us to love both our neighbors and our enemies, probably because they are the same people.

A FUNERAL SERVICE is conducted for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers are carrying the casket out of the church when they accidentally bump into a wall, jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies.

Once again, a ceremony is conducted, and at the end of it, the pallbearers are again carrying out the casket. As they head toward the doors of the church, the husband cries out, "Watch that wall!"

HOW IS IT that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

A WOMAN WAS EXASPERATED with her younger sister, who bought an unreliable car and called for a ride every time it broke down. One day, while out running errands, she received yet another call.

"What happened this time?" she asked.

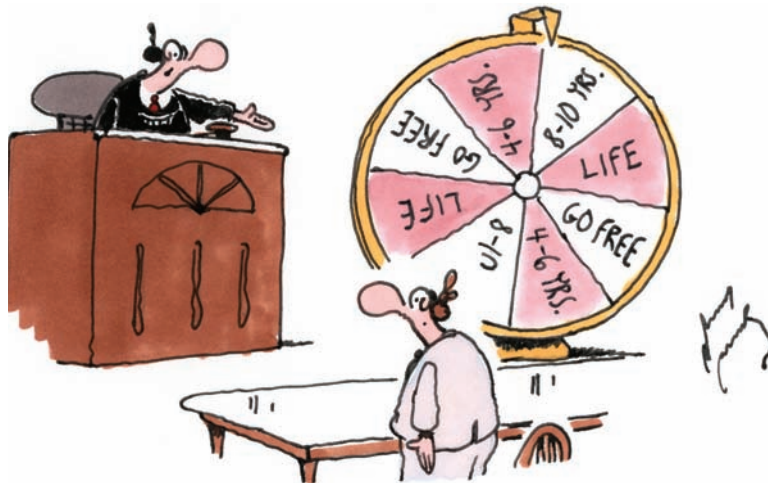
"My brakes went out," her sister said. "Can you come and get me?"

“Where are you?”

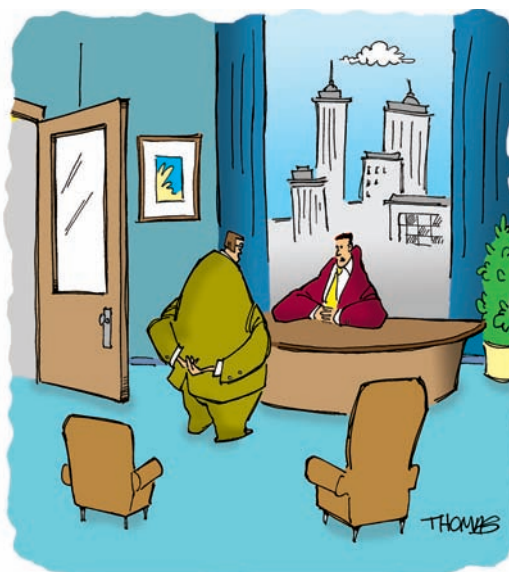
"I'm in the drugstore."

"And where's the car?"

"It's in here with me."



“We can have a long, expensive trial or you can save taxpayers some money and spin the Wheel of Justice.”



“You want a raise, eh?
Well, I’ve got a nice round number in mind.”



“Congratulations on figuring out which buttons to push to reach a representative!”

SIGN AT ANIMAL SHELTER: “Children left unattended will be given a puppy or a kitten.”

TWO MICE MET behind a toaster. "It's been a long time," the first mouse said. "How's it going?"

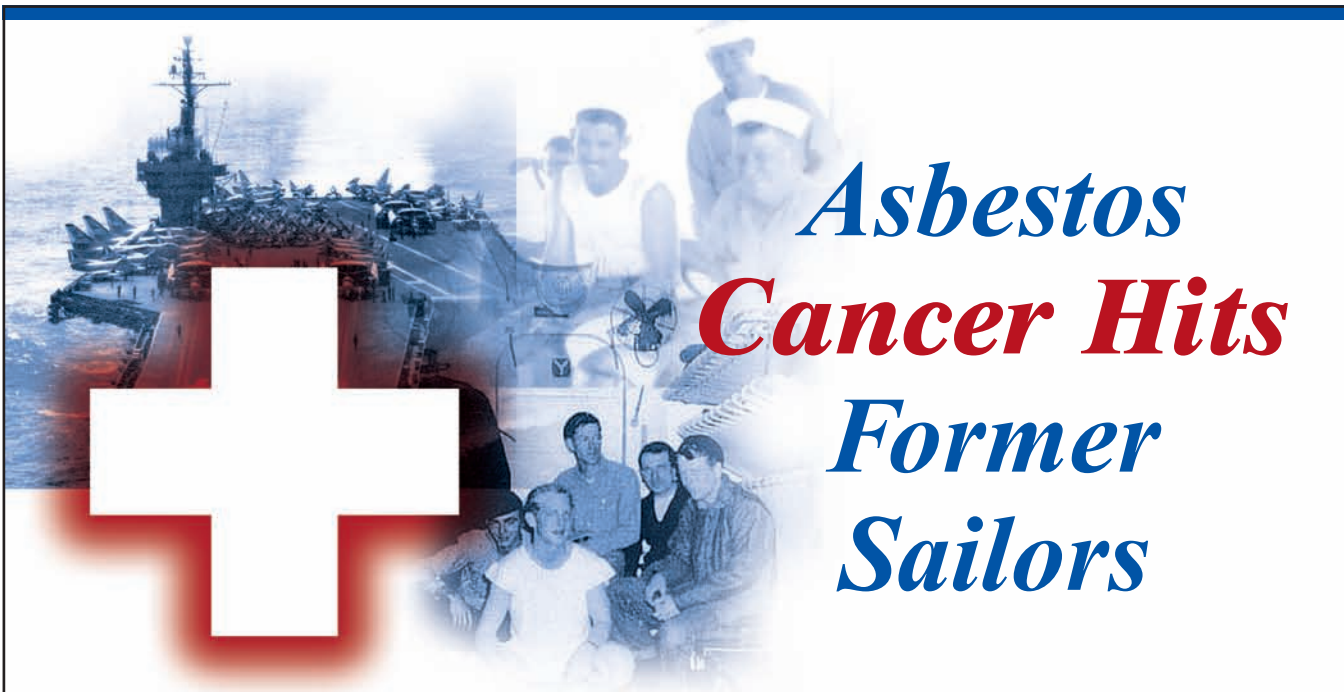
“Great,” the second mouse replied. “I have three brothers in pharmaceutical testing and a sister in heart research!”

A VISITOR TO TEXAS once asked, “Does it ever rain out here?”

“Yes, it does,” a rancher replied. “Remember that story in the Bible when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights?”

“Yes, I’m familiar with Noah’s flood.”

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